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Table of exchange rates for various currencies including the US Dollar, British Pound, and others.

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Outlook

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With European weather

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Chaos of war taunts Yeltsin

James Meek in Moscow

BOODSHED and doubt attended the baptism of Russian democracy yesterday as a wooden Boris Yeltsin slurred his way through his inauguration oath and his troops struggled to win back control of Grozny, the Chechen capital they conquered at such terrible cost last year.

Fears that Mr Yeltsin's health will prevent him serving a full four-year term, ushering in a backstage power struggle for a successor, were not allayed by the president's awkward appearance at the inauguration ceremony.

"holiday" which may last as long as two months.

Mr Yeltsin made no mention of the Chechen crisis in his speech. Later, through his press service, he declared today a day of mourning for the victims of the fighting, and called on his field commanders to restore order in Grozny. However, he said only a peaceful settlement could resolve the crisis.

Four days after rebels sallied through Russian defences to occupy much of the city, the Russian defence minister, General Igor Rodionov, said: "Circumstances will probably force me to involve myself with this problem."

One government spokesman said Mr Chernomyrdin had told Gen Rodionov and the interior minister, Anatoly Kulikov, that it was their job to "save people" in Grozny. But the prime minister has limited influence.

Unconfirmed reports yesterday said Russian troops had suffered 120 dead and 400 wounded in the latest fighting in Grozny, with another 50 missing. One source said only 30 of 100 agents were left alive in the local building of the federal security service (FSB).

A spokesman for federal forces in Chechnya said 7,000 federal troops were surrounded. "The situation is completely out of control of the federal command. The cut-off troops are not even attempting to attack the separatists; they are limiting themselves to passive defence," he said.

Rebel units were fighting to prevent Russian forces breaking into the city from the two airfields which are their main bases - Severny and Khan-kala. At one point Severny seemed on the verge of being stormed, and all injured were evacuated, together with servicewomen.

The central government building, where the journalists and civilians were sheltering, was being defended by a small number of police and troops as rebels attacked with tanks, armoured troop carriers and tear gas.

Last night, the rebels' main media spokesman, Movladi Udogov, said they would agree to an evacuation organised by the International Committee of the Red Cross if federal forces stopped attacking their positions with helicopters and aircraft.



John's big adventure: Labour's deputy leader with traditional fish and chips and potential Labour recruits in Cleethorpes yesterday...



...and sticking to seaside pursuits - beach cricket and sticks of rock



PHOTOGRAPHS: GARRY WEASER

New Labour, new sandpies, as Big John fights them on the beaches

Martin Wainwright on a day at the seaside

ONE minute little Emma Durrant was a perfectly satisfactory hole in the Cleethorpes sand. The next, a substantial portion of Labour's front bench had plunked itself down, commandeered her green plastic bucket and taken charge.

"Now then Emma," instructed the party's deputy leader John Prescott, finding himself a smaller and less well-defended version of Clare Short, judging by his authoritative tone.

"Here we go. Watch Scoop, Pat - that's right." Spat "There's one sand pie for you - now for No. 2."

It was New Labour, New Danger, at least as far as three-year-old sand-builders on Lincolnshire's best beach were concerned. Marine Commandos couldn't have bettered the launch of the party's "right Tory lies on the beaches" season stunt, in terms of energy and daring.

Toasting aside adages about performing with children (and boldly going right in front of a huge bill-board saying "Fantasy World") Mr Prescott went for the notorious Mawhinney Challenge head on.

"Mr Mawhinney, the Tory chairman, asked: 'Who'd want to meet John Prescott on a beach?'

mond had no time to escape. Within moments, Labour's try-anything champion was in the passenger seat of Mr Hammond's municipal sand-buggy, which skims along the dunes warning of Old Fitties Creek, Old Danger.

"We need to get out there rapidly," Mr Hammond explained, "to warn people on the sandbars about getting cut off by the creek, when the tide comes in."

Mr Prescott repeatedly banged home the text about Labour's tide coming in, embracing two postmen, pensioners from Chesterfield ("Ah, you have Tony Benn," he said ambivalently) and a gulp at the noisy Tonka Sightseeing Train.

"Typical privatised railway," he said, as the machine kept interrupting his comment with loud speakered chuffs and hoots.

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Call for DNA tests for convicts

Duncan Campbell Crime Correspondent

ALL prisoners should have DNA samples taken from them on their release, according to Ray White, soon to be president of the Association of Chief Police Officers.

This would benefit former prisoners who have gone straight but who come under suspicion in investigations where DNA evidence is available.

Mr White, who takes over as ACPO president in October, said in his annual report as chief constable of Dyfed-Powys that the public would be better protected if pre-release samples were taken. These would act as a powerful deterrent to crime.

The Government has indicated that it will introduce legislation requiring sex offenders leaving prison to give a DNA sample.

If it were extended to all prisoners, those who did not reoffend could be eliminated from an inquiry "in a non-intrusive manner" in crimes where DNA evidence was available, Mr White said.

Stephen Shaw, director of the Prison Reform Trust, disagreed that taking samples from all prisoners was necessary. DNA testing was expensive, and the crimes of most prisoners had nothing to do with sex offences.

Mr White's views are likely to carry weight with Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, not only because of his coming ACPO role but also because Dyfed-Powys has the lowest crime rate in England and Wales.

This was not to do with the rural nature of the area, Mr White said, but with the force's tactics in investigating all crime, rather than "screening out" some minor offences as other forces did.

The crime detection rate in Dyfed-Powys was 57 per cent, more than twice the national average, with 96 per cent of crimes of violence being detected.

'Squandered' jet pioneer Whittle dies, aged 89

John Ezard

SIR Frank Whittle - the British jet pioneer whose engines transformed the skies of the world - has died aged 89 in the United States, the country which gained incalculable wealth by exploiting his invention.

He saw the huge lead he had given Britain by inventing and developing the jet squandered by government neglect and lack of investment.

Sir Frank, whose death was announced yesterday, remained angry about this though he was laden with belated honours.

Sir Peter Masefield, the former chair of British European Airman of British European Airways, said he was "a great man who changed the face of aviation". British Airways, which recently named a Boeing 777 after him, said he had played "a major part in the development of aviation".

Whittle outlined the concept of the jet engine as a 22-year-old cadet at RAF Cranwell, Lincolnshire, in 1928.

The Air Ministry dismissed it as impractical. The Secretary of State for Air, the Marquis of Londonderry, wrote: "We do not consider that we should be justified in spending any time or money on it."

Whittle patented plans for a turbo-jet in 1930 but the Government made no effort to keep them secret. He spent five years seeking a backer.

In 1935 two ex-RAF colleagues helped him start Power Jets, a company so short of funds it had to use reclaimed scrap metal. It tested its first jet engine in 1937.

In the late 1930s intelligence reports that Nazi Germany was close to developing jets aroused official interest at

last. Whittle's first turbo-jet, the E28/39, flew at Cranwell in 1941. By 1944 jet fighters were in service. Whittle said they could have been used against Hitler years earlier.

In a letter supporting Mrs Thatcher in the 1987 general election, he said Labour's nationalisation of his company in 1945 had halted engine design. "Work on the world's first turbo-fan and superonic aircraft stopped, depriving

Britain of a 10-year lead in civil jet aviation," he wrote. His plans went to the US, which used them for its entire post-war aircraft industry.

Sir Peter Masefield said: "We gave a good deal to the US and they ploughed money into it. But don't let's run down Britain. Here was a revolutionary idea. Not surprisingly, not everybody leapt on it."

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Inside

Britain Tension remained high in Northern Ireland last night, despite a concession by Catholics in Londonderry to re-route a march.

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World News Former football star Jack Kemp looks likely to be named Senator Bob Dole's running-mate for the US presidential election.

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Finance Sommerfield, the former Gateway supermarket chain, defied critics with a successful stock market debut yesterday.

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Sport England made a late recovery to 104-1 after Pakistan had extended their first innings to 456 in the second Test at Headingley.

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Advertisement for Eurostar, featuring a man in a suit and the text: 'On Eurostar, there are many comfy seats and toilets. My research shows that this is not true of family cars. eurostar. the passenger train from the centre of London to the centre of Paris or Brussels in just over 3 hours. 0345 30 30 30 or see your travel agent Europe just got closer ...so don't forget your passport!'



Police and crash investigators examine the wreckage at Watford yesterday after Thursday's train crash in which a woman died and 69 people were injured. PHOTOGRAPH, GRAHAM TURNER

Driver 'passed red light'

Crash 'looks like human error'

Rebecca Smithers and Vivek Chaudhary

DRIVER error was last night emerging as the most likely cause of the Watford rail crash, after investigators spent the day trawling through the wreckage of the two trains which collided on Thursday evening, killing one person and injuring 69.

Although three investigations into the disaster may not be completed for several months, Railtrack is likely to release initial findings showing the driver of the full passenger train travelling north west through a red light.

ator of the two trains — and Railtrack spent yesterday examining the carriages at the site. Tapes from the signal monitoring equipment and the aviation-style "black boxes" on the trains were being studied at Railtrack's Signalling Control Centre, in Derby, to try to establish what happened before the collision and to prove a signalling fault was not to blame.

Although Railtrack plans to make a statement next week on its initial conclusions, it has launched a separate investigation, which will be carried out in tandem with one by the Health and Safety Executive and one by the British Transport Police.

Yesterday Railtrack announced the "independent chairman" of its inquiry would be David Maidment, aged 59, its former controller of safety policy.

The police inquiry will produce a report for the coroner and determine whether any crime had been committed. Police said both train drivers had been tested for drugs and alcohol. The results were not yet available.

The handling of the accident is the first big test of Railtrack's credibility since it was floated on the stock market in May. The Transport Secretary, Sir George Young, yesterday denied suggestions that the restructuring of the railways for privatisation had compromised safety, or that investment was suffering.

Sulking minister boycotts his job

Derek Brown in Jerusalem on the prima donna of Israeli politics

IN THE discreet world of quiet diplomacy, Israel's foreign minister, David Levy, has no equal. He is not available to ambassadors, does not attend cabinet meetings, and has taken to boycotting his own office.

Some may assume, kindly, that Mr Levy is conducting his country's diplomatic affairs with unparalleled discretion. The fact is, he is not conducting them at all.



David Levy... 'deep and mutual loathing' for the PM (Bridge) faction and threatening to run in the direct election for prime minister.

is hardly unprecedented in Israeli politics. Mr Rabin's reluctant appointment of Mr Peres as his foreign minister in 1992 came after a generation of acrid rivalry. But the distance between Mr Peres and Mr Levy is that the former swallowed his scruples (or lack of them) and worked quietly at building his own role.

New Labour, new sandpies, as Big John fights them on the beaches

Continued from page 1 "makes a lot of noise and goes very slowly."

emphasised policy unity and ventured only: "I'll suggest to Clare that she comes to Cleethorpes for a bit of a break."

ing Mr Prescott's ear about Grimsby's threatened Alzheimer's centre, confessed: "I'm a true blue," but helped knot string on Labour's "Tory Lies" balloon ("Anything to help the centre") and also told passers-by: "It's the Liberal Democrats who have been really helpful."

Emma Durrant also spoke for the Confused, as she licked her Tory Lies rock (an innocuous product compared with some of the edible body-parts on sale on the Prom). "I can't remember who that man was," she said, two minutes after Mr Prescott had roared off, "but he gave me this lovely sweet."

Alleged minibus hijack victims 'may be Britons'

Police baffled over three male tourists apparently abducted in a taxi hold-up



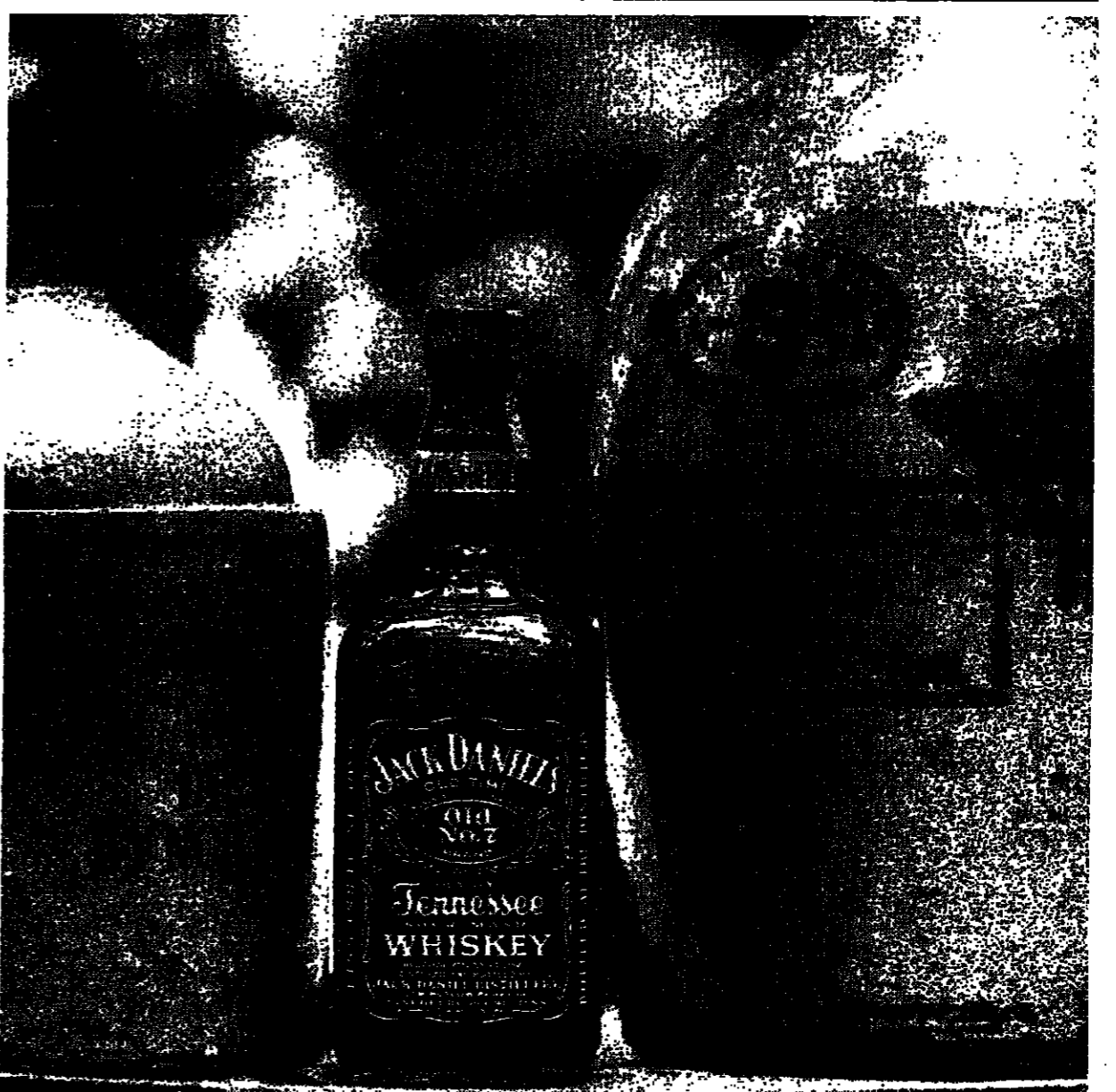
Peter Manykane... 'held at gunpoint at traffic lights'

SOUTH AFRICAN police were last night still trying to identify three men, presumed to be British tourists, who were allegedly abducted in a taxi hijacking late on Thursday night.

On the way, he stopped at a traffic light and was confronted by five men armed with pistols, who forced him out of the minibus before driving the vehicle away, with the passengers and their luggage. Mr Manykane said the five men were Zulus.

Appeals were made over local radio stations for motorists who might have witnessed the hijacking.

Earlier this week, an alleged gang leader was killed in Cape Town by vigilantes calling themselves People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad). Gangsters have sworn revenge for the killing, and Pagad has threatened further violence.



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JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

Ask about an MP or a brand of pot noodle that they can't stand, and most people will say something blandly inoffensive along the lines of "so, so" or "I don't really know".

BRITAIN Evangelist vents wrath on advert watchdog

Madeleine Bunting watches Morris Cerullo in action on his 'healing' Mission to London

MORRIS Cerullo was unrepentant this week in London as thousands of people poured into Earl's Court to hear the American evangelist and witness promised healings. He had taken out full-page advertisements in national newspapers to say there would be healings at the Mission to London, and the crowds of outstretched hands and upturned faces were confident the dapper little man would deliver. Criticism runs off Mr Cerullo like water off the proverbial duck's back. Repeated claims of doubtful fundraising techniques, and claims that "miracles" had subsequently collapsed, are attributed to malicious, secular media which like only bad news. But it is the Advertising Standards Authority that Mr Cerullo now has in his sights, because it has censured some of his past advertising techniques. "According to the ASA, we must no longer say that God can heal sick bodies or

change lives or restore broken families," he said. He looked to the land where there was no ASA to "muffle their cries of joy as the father or the mother of an infant child walks or sees for the first time". On Mr Cerullo's last visit to Britain, an advertisement had to be hastily withdrawn from billboards because it misleadingly claimed that a woman had been able to have a baby after being healed. It turned out she already had three children. It was a public relations fiasco, but Mr Cerullo dismissed it: "I did not make a mistake. I didn't know anything about it." "But the buck stops with me, sure. I'm responsible but the agency made the mistake. There's no question of my integrity at stake here. "She definitely had a miracle. Start in the morning today. What the agency overlooked was the circumstances of the case. I said to the agency that they shouldn't report any miracle that isn't bona fide and thoroughly checked."



Morris Cerullo... attributes criticism of his healing claims and his fundraising techniques to malicious media

Checked by doctors? "No, I didn't say that. Look, a young girl sat in a meeting a few nights ago, and she had a tumour the size of a baby in her stomach. And in the course of praying for the sick she came running up to the platform, and it had gone. Maybe it wasn't a tumour but a swelling of some kind. "It's not my responsibility to go back to the doctor with her. We can't keep going to doctors or we'd be there all the time.

"We do not record or write a testimony of a case that we haven't checked thoroughly. I've had many people healed in Great Britain. We don't check with doctors. "If you go back to the doctors, they'll say you never had that particular problem in the first place, or you've gone into remission. "Jesus let miracles speak for themselves, he didn't call doctors in." At this point Mr Cerullo launched into the "crisis of

doctors in this country" after a huge scandal in which they were accused of "enormous improprieties". He was vague on the details of the case. "Just because someone is a doctor, don't take what he says for gospel. With God all things are possible. We believe in medical science; we're not cranks." But Mr Cerullo is no joke. For all the cuddliness of his cherubic, kindly face, dyed hair and tubby figure, his

message is apocalyptic doom: "Worldwide, things will get worse and worse. We are past the beginning of the end now. We are approaching the end of this age. "The prophecy that Jesus will return is about to be fulfilled (he raises his finger for added emphasis). It's imminent — definitely in my lifetime." The end of the age will be marked with the battle of Armageddon in Israel. "There will be sudden de-

struction, like a whirlwind, in the Middle East — a lot of pain and destruction. When these things happen, lift up your head, because your redemption draweth nigh." At this point the noise from the hall reached a climax as a Canadian preacher on stage yelled out how God had revealed to him personally prophecies hidden in the Bible for 35 centuries. God's plan for the universe was being revealed right here in Earl's Court, west London. It

'No, we don't check miracles with doctors. They'll say you never had that problem'

was the perfect counterpoint to Mr Cerullo's insistent whisper: "Jesus will take his bride, his Church out of this world." Where? He pointed upward with smile: "He'll take us up to heaven." "The only thing that gives the world its sanity now is the presence of the Church. Take out the Church and the Holy Spirit (he snapped his fingers) and this place wouldn't be a nice place to be. All devastation will break through."

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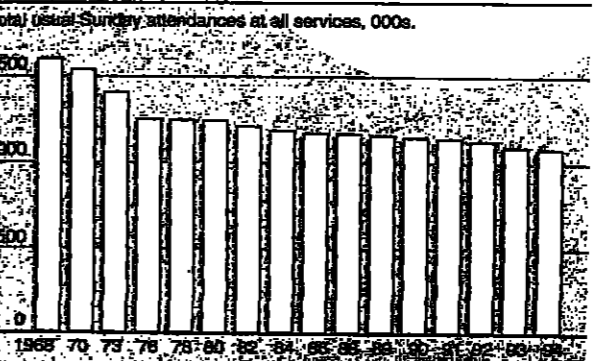
Christians per 1,000 population, aged 15 and over

Diocese	Christians per 1,000 population
London	98
Southwark	72
Diocese of the South	70
Diocese of Exeter	68
Diocese of Bath and Wells	68

Declining clergy

Full-time stipendiary clergy, change at end of year.

Year	Change
1990	+7
1991	-27
1992	-85
1993	-137
1994	-368
1995	-189



Churchgoing 'bottoms out'

Madeleine Bunting
Religious Affairs Editor

THE decline in the number of adults attending Anglican church on Sundays appears to have bottomed out, although fewer children and young people are accompanying them, according to statistics published yesterday.

Since 1992, attendance at Christmas services has increased slightly, as have the numbers on the Church of England's electoral roll. Church leaders will view with delight figures which are showing a continuing strong upward trend in giving. Total parish income topped £300 million for the first time in 1994.

"From the mid-eighties, there has been a degree of stability," said Raymond Tongue, head of Church of England statistics.

But there are several major points for concern, with the number of children under 16 usually attending Sunday services dropping by a fifth since

1996. The pattern of static church attendance also masks enormous regional variations, ranging from pockets of virtually de-Christianised inner cities to rural dioceses where churchgoing is up to four times higher.

Hereford is the "holiest" diocese by a handsome margin over high-scoring dioceses such as Salisbury, Bath and Wells, and Exeter.

The lowest levels of Christmas Day church attendance are in Birmingham, London, Manchester, and Chelmsford, Essex. These figures in part reflect the large, non-Christian ethnic minorities.

Of immediate concern is the continuing fall in the number of full-time stipendiary ministers.

There was a net loss of 816 between 1991 and 1995, or just under 10 per cent, despite the influx of women into the priesthood. Church leaders attribute the fall to fears for job availability and financial security following the mismanagement of funds at the Church Commissioners. The loss is offset partly by unpaid part-time priests.

When you pad the hand with a glove, you turn it into a weapon a fighter can use with very little consequence to himself, says Dr Joe Estwanik

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all this

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Abduction highlights falling rand and uncertain foreign investment • Vigilantes threaten peace as police bumble



Peter Manyekane with his Johannesburg taxi, from which three Britons were abducted yesterday PHOTOGRAPH JUDA NGWENYA

Where not to go

The Travel Advice Unit of the Foreign Office advises against all travel to the following countries/regions:

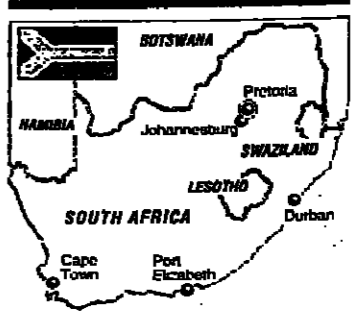
Charlotte Hinde of Lonely Planet Travel Guides advises:

- South Africa - parts are very dangerous.
- North India - since kidnappings, stay away.
- Colombia - fairly safe for tourists now.
- Peru - safe-ish now.
- Lebanon - fine, opening up for tourists.
- Turkey - PKK targeting tourists, especially in the South East.
- Egypt - Islamic groups targeting terrorists.

Unless on essential business the Foreign Office also advises against travel to:

- Bosnia
- Cambodia
- Cuba
- Czech Republic
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- East Timor
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Iran
- Iraq
- North Korea
- Russia
- Sri Lanka
- Tanzania
- Togo
- Tunisia
- Uganda
- Yemen
- Zimbabwe

South Africa



Foreign Office advice: Avoid isolated areas. Avoid townships. Do not wear expensive jewellery. Do not carry cameras. Minimum of cash should be carried. If staying in a hotel seek advice as to which areas to avoid.

Lonely Planet advice: No jewellery, cameras, flashy t-shirts. Use hotel/hostel as a safe. Avoid city centres at night and weekends when the shops are closed. Don't walk around at night. Keep a distance between the car in front and behind you to avoid being sandwiched. If held up, don't be a hero. Book a place to stay before you arrive, so you are not wandering.

Hijack exposes frail S African prosperity

The kidnapping of three British visitors is not just a law and order issue, writes David Beresford

SOUTH Africa's levels of crime are known to be horrendous, but the circumstances of yesterday's abduction of three Britons in a taxi promise to bring the issue to a head for the country's authorities.

The fact that the attack was on a regular taxi service from the main international airport raises immediate concern for the government as to its impact on the tourism industry. There is a perception — open to debate, but widely held — that crime is discouraging foreign investment in South Africa.

The hijack victims are from the main foreign investor, and this will add to fears about the slide of the rand, which recently reached a record low against the pound. Yesterday the governor of the reserve bank, Chris Stals, was insisting there were no plans to raise South Africa's already crippling interest rates, an assurance met with sneering scepticism from economists, who noted that the drain on foreign reserves from defending the currency made such action almost inevitable.

And then there is the timing of the incident. Coming hard on the heels of the "drugs war" which blew up in Cape Town this week — when a lynch mob burnt and shot a notorious gangster — it can only induce more vigilante action.

When it became apparent that the hijackers came from Alexandra township, a radio announcer noted on air that it was "women's day" and suggested it was time to imitate the example of 20,000 female anti-apartheid activists who, 40 years ago, marched on Pretoria's Union Buildings. He urged listeners who owned four-wheel-drive vehicles to get together and "sweep" Alexandra township. Knowing "Alex", as it is popularly called, one could only bless the common sense of those who opted to stay indoors on a winter's day.

The square mile shantytown that is Alex probably boasts the biggest concentration of assault rifles outside security force armories. "Man, I'm terrified in this place," a police fingerprint expert with a magnifying glass said as he drove yesterday to the centre of the township where the hijacked vehicle had been discovered. He got lost. Asked whether he did not have a police radio, he grunted: "The battery is flat." Later he had to abandon his police van when a door fell off.

It was all a reminder of the comic opera reputation of the custodians of law and order. Earlier this year the Commissioner of Police, George Fivaz, showed monumental insensitivity to force morale when he announced that tenders had been invited from security firms to protect his headquarters. Privatisation does not appear to have helped much; this week a police spokesman apologised to journalists for his inability to fax statements to them, explaining that all the facsimile machines had been stolen.

Such incompetence points to the frustration for Nelson Mandela as he is driven time and time again, as he was this week after the vigilante eruption in Cape Town, to promise "tough action" against crime. Few believe he can deliver it.

The price the country has to pay for his helplessness is not only another possible run on the rand, but a seemingly inevitable erosion of the ANC's commitment to a human rights culture. The death chamber at Pretoria Central has been mothballed since the ANC came to power. The prison commander complained last week that he did not expect to see it in action again. Three missing Britons could yet prove him wrong.

World grows dangerous as travellers become targets

Lucy Manning

BRITISH travellers have found that foreign trips are increasingly dangerous, as tourists are prime targets for criminals and extreme political groups.

"Outside of war zones," said Charlotte Hinde of Lonely Planet Travel Guides, "Johannesburg is one of the most dangerous places you can go to."

The Foreign Office warns travellers to South Africa that the incidence of mugging and violent crime is increasing. It advises people to avoid isolated areas and townships, and not to carry cameras and large amounts of money.

Lonely Planet also warns motorists about criminals who drive in front and behind a car, sandwiching it and then mugging the occupants. This week a Briton on holiday with his wife and daughter in Turkey, Michael Botterill, of Coventry, was shot and injured by a thief in his hotel room.

Tourists have been prime kidnap targets for political groups which want international attention or to use them as a bargaining chip against their government. In Kashmir, two Britons are among four Westerners who have been held for over a year by the al-Faran separatist group. A Norwegian with them was deported last August, and it is not known whether the remaining hostages are alive.

Four Cambridge University students were rescued in May after being held almost five months in the jungle in Irian Jaya, Indonesia, by the Free Papua Movement.

The Foreign Office has advised travellers not to visit nine areas, including Algeria, Kashmir, Iraq and Afghanistan. It also advises against travelling, unless on essential business, to Angola, Rwanda, Bosnia and Tajikistan.

Ms Hinde said: "Since the kidnappings in Kashmir we have told people to stay away. Other problem areas at the moment are Turkey, where Islamic extremists have attacked tourists, and Cambodia."

Even tourists to Spain, favourite destination of British holidaymakers, have found themselves confronted with terrorism. Last month 23 Britons were injured after a bomb planted by ETA, the Basque separatist group, exploded at Reus airport in northern Spain. But Ms Hinde said such problems were no worse than for London tourists during the IRA campaign.

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Jack Kemp likely to be vice-presidential choice

Old foe tipped as Dole running mate

Jonathan Freedland in Washington

THE Republican Party was tensed last night for the expected announcement today that Bob Dole's vice-presidential running mate will be the former congressman and football star Jack Kemp.

Mr Kemp was closely in touch with Mr Dole's team all day. Mr Dole told reporters he had made his choice, but declined to supply a name. Asked to rate his deputy on a scale of one to ten, he said: "Probably an eleven."

The buzz grew louder as it emerged that Mr Kemp met Mr Dole late on Wednesday night in the infamous Watergate building in Washington, where Mr Dole has a flat.

Dole strategists hope it is not a bad omen. It was a break-in at the Watergate that led to the downfall of Mr Dole's mentor Richard Nixon.

The rumours of Mr Kemp's selection started most Republicans, who had long ago ruled him out because of a history of tense personal relations with Mr Dole. Besides running against each other for the 1988 Republican nomination, they represent opposite wings of the party on economic doctrine.

Mr Kemp, a former housing secretary, is a Reaganite supply-sider and a passionate advocate of low taxation, while Mr Dole is the party's leading deficit hawk — maintaining that the budget deficit has to be slashed before taxes can be cut. In this year's primaries Mr Kemp endorsed the publishing millionaire Steve Forbes, even when it was clear that Mr Forbes had no chance of winning.

The Kemp-Dole relationship has, at times, been toxic. Mr Dole used to tell his joke to anti-Kemp audiences: "Here's the good news: a bus load of supply-siders went over a cliff. The bad news is, there were three empty seats."

Mr Kemp responded with a quip that a fire in Bob Dole's house destroyed his library, burning both books — and he hadn't finished colouring one of them.

Nevertheless, Republican aides insisted yesterday that the two men now enjoyed a "base-line level of comfort".

Mr Kemp would appear to be an inspired choice. He will engage the party foot-soldiers, who like his swash-buckling style and Reaganite optimism. He is sufficiently opposed to abortion to satisfy the Christian right, but has progressive positions on race

and immigration to please moderates.

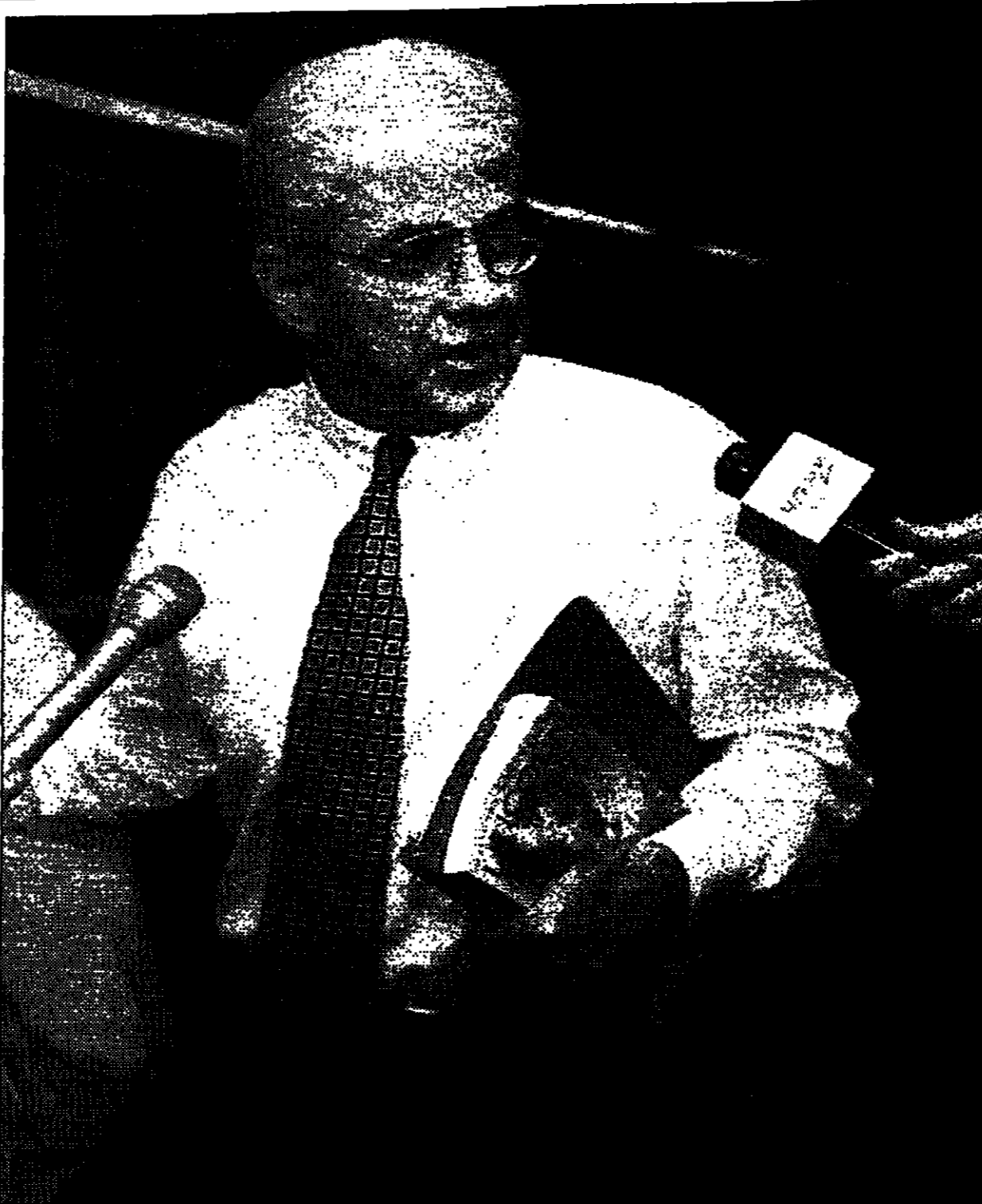
Dole aides calculate that Mr Kemp's calls for "empowerment zones" for mainly-black inner cities and his opposition to a 1994 Californian bill to deny rights to illegal immigrants will expand the party's appeal to independent and Democratic voters.

For Mr Dole, aged 73, the addition of Mr Kemp, aged 61, will add relative youth and vigour to his ticket — at the same time offering a running mate with the experience to step in as president.

There was speculation last night that the announcement was being delayed partly because Mr Kemp was hesitant, wary of attaching himself to an ailing candidacy. Others said Mr Kemp was grateful for a way out of the political wilderness. For 13 years a quarterback for the Buffalo Bills, "he misses the applause", said one friend.

Party officials warned that Mr Dole might still deliver a surprise when he unveils his choice in his home town, Russell, Kansas, today.

Other names said to be on his final shortlist were Senator Connie Mack of Florida, Senator John McCain of Arizona and the former South Carolina governor Carroll Campbell.



Jack Kemp, tipped as the Republican vice-presidential candidate, arrives in Orlando, Florida

PHOTOGRAPH: TOM SPRITZ

Senator watches parents' killer die

Libby Gussard in McAlester, Oklahoma

BROOKS and Leslie Douglass were children when their parents were shot in the back 17 years ago. They watched their mother and father bleed to death.

Yesterday State Senator Brooks Douglass and his sister, now Leslie Frizzell, witnessed the execution of one of the killers.

Mr Douglass wrote the law that allowed them and three uncles to watch through a window as Steven Keith Hatch died by lethal injection.

The senator was aged 16 and his sister 12 in 1979 when Hatch and Glen Burton Ake arrived at the family home posing as lost motorists. They tied up Mr Douglass and his parents and forced his sister to lead them to cash, jewellery and credit cards. They also tried to rape her.

Ake sent Hatch outside to "listen for the sound" and start the car, then shot all four family members in the back. Richard Douglass, a minister, and his wife, Marilyn, died but the children survived.

Ake was sentenced to death but won a new trial on appeal. He is serving two life terms.

Hatch, aged 42, always maintained his innocence, arguing that he should not be executed because he did not pull the trigger.

The legislation allowing victims' families to watch killers die is the major achievement of Mr Douglass's two terms in the Senate, where he has worked to help victims play a part in the criminal justice system.

Errors delayed warning to police of Atlanta bomb

Ian Katz in Atlanta

A WARNING that a bomb was about to explode in Atlanta's Centennial Park failed to reach authorities at the scene because an emergency operator did not know the park's address and telephone lines to the police control centre were engaged, it has emerged.

Valuable minutes were lost as the operator called the police command centre three times, and could not find an address for the park, which her computer needed before it would transmit a warning to a police dispatcher.

Last month's bombing killed one woman, injured more than 100 and cast a pall over the Olympics. A Turkish cameraman who died of a heart attack as he rushed to the scene is also being treated as a homicide.

One of the most embarrassing questions facing Atlanta officials is why the warning received 22 minutes before the blast never reached Centennial Park.

Authorities at the park began clearing the area after they were alerted by Richard Jewell, the security guard who later be-

came the prime suspect. But critics have suggested that there might have been fewer injuries if they had been warned earlier.

The man, who called at 12.58am on July 27, said only: "There is a bomb in Centennial Park. You have 30 minutes."

Atlanta's police chiefs say the call was handled in accordance with a protocol designed to deal with bomb warnings.

However, a recently released police transcript reveals an almost farcical sequence of events that delayed transmission by at least 10 minutes. Included in the following exchange between the operator and a police dispatcher:

Operator: "You know the address of Centennial Park?"

Dispatcher: "Girl, don't ask me to lie to you."

Operator: "I tried to call ACC [the Atlanta police department's command centre], but ain't nobody answering the phone... But I just got this man talking about there's a bomb set to go off in 30 minutes in Centennial Park."

Dispatcher: "Oh Lord, child. One minute, one minute... Uh, okay, wait a minute. You put it in, and it

won't go in?"

Operator: "No, unless I'm spelling Centennial wrong. How are we spelling Centennial?"

On her second attempt to call the police command centre, the line was bad and she was told to call again. When she did get through, an unidentified official told her he did not have the park's address, adding: "What's all this talk I am..."

The operator eventually obtained the address from an office at Centennial Park itself and transmitted the report of the warning call at 1:08:35. However, it was 1:11:10 before a police unit was contacted.

Nine minutes later, a police officer radioed: "Be advised that something just blew up at Olympic Park."

Embarrassment has also mounted as FBI agents have failed to find conclusive evidence against Mr Jewell. The bureau is under pressure to explain why he was named as a leading suspect.

● The parents of three young victims of last month's TWA Flight 800 disaster off Long Island have filed a lawsuit in France seeking to force US investigators to disclose more of their findings.

Megawati questioned for seven hours

Nick Cumming-Bruce South-East Asia Correspondent

INDONESIA'S opposition leader, Megawati Sukarnoputri, spent nearly seven hours in Jakarta's police headquarters yesterday being questioned about events leading up to riots on July 27 in Jakarta in which at least four, and possibly many more, people died.

Megawati, who was told to report for further questioning next Thursday, did not play up her first public appearance since the riots, leaving by a side door to avoid journalists and a small crowd of supporters waiting outside. She gave no clue as to the thrust of police inquiries.

Jakarta authorities initially seemed in no hurry to assign responsibility on her for the so-called "free-speech forum" at the headquarters of her Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI), stormed by police early on July 27, which ignited Indonesia's worst riots in more than 20 years.

Megawati, however, had insisted she would only answer

questions relevant to her police summons. This specified that she was wanted as a witness in connection with investigations into the activities of the PDI, described by army chiefs as a neo-communist group responsible for the rioting and for plotting to overthrow President Suharto's 31-year-old New Order.

Lawyers have reported students emerging with bruised faces from police questioning in the central city of Jogjakarta, showing the enthusiasm with which Indonesian authorities are pursuing this line of investigation — to the dismay of sceptical local and foreign analysts.

A Jakarta businessman, looking up at the blackened shell of a bank burnt in the riots, said: "I saw it myself. It was done by young children. There were no hardcore thugs, no riotous people. It came from their hearts."

Two weeks on, a fragile calm has returned to Jakarta, but the generals' preoccupation with a communist menace few others perceive reinforces a growing sense that Mr Suharto, aged 75, is trapped in a set of outdated

reflexes and has lost touch with the younger generation. "It's a rhetoric of violence... coming out with that is quite baffling," said Marzuki Darusman, a member of parliament and co-chairman of the National Human Rights Commission. "It creates a perception of escalating measures from both sides and pretty soon you expect a kind of collision."

It also raises doubts about the regime's ability to keep in

check the festering social and political tensions whose role in the rioting was clear to residents but so far has excited little attention from Mr Suharto's military or civilian henchmen.

Whether Megawati Sukarnoputri, the daughter of Indonesia's first president, can harness the pressures for change is equally uncertain. The 49-year-old exploits the powerful magic of the Sukarno name and, as the riots demonstrated, has become a rallying point for the young and disaffected.

But Megawati taps the deep well of popular disaffection almost by default: she employs none of her father's fiery oratory and offers no agenda of reform. Her challenge is largely focused on several hundred lawsuits against everyone from generals and government ministers to rival PDI leader Suryadi and his supporters, who backed the military plan to oust her.

This minimalist style of leadership works well in the political culture of Indonesia's Java where she eventually surrenders it.

is seen as a mark of strength and contrasts favourably with the contentions of military bosses enforcing Mr Suharto's apparent desire to snuff out a possible Sukarno challenge.

Yet local analysts doubt she has done enough to woo the Indonesian elite who largely shape political developments. Megawati herself has denied any intention of working outside the existing three-party system Mr Suharto created.

This stance leaves her vulnerable if, as seems probable, she is not nominated to stand for parliament when the list of candidates for next year's parliamentary election closes in mid-September. Megawati may continue to command broad moral support, Mr Marzuki concluded, but "politically I think it's a gradual process of her being shunted aside".

That might allow Mr Suharto a more tranquil run-up to the 1998 presidential election, when he is expected to try for a seventh term in office, but does not encourage hopes of a smooth transfer of power when he eventually surrenders it.



Megawati left the police headquarters by a side exit

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Rwanda joins blockade to leave Burundi totally cut off

Chris McGreal in Bujumbura

BURUNDI'S new military-led government has denounced sanctions against the country as a crime against humanity after Rwanda joined a regional blockade by closing its borders and cutting air links.

After days of vacillating, Rwanda became the last country in the region to enforce force sanctions, plugging the only remaining exit route from Burundi by land, water or air.

Yesterday foreigners and wealthy Burundians who had scrambled to the region in the last flights out of the country were left stranded when Air France and the Belgian airline, Sabena, cancelled their services, leaving no means of escape.

African leaders announced the sanctions two weeks ago after Burundi's former military leader, Pierre Buyoya, again seized power. A regional summit demanded the restoration of constitutional rule and unconditional talks between Burundi's Tutsi-dominated establishment and Hutu rebels.

The leader of the Hutu rebels, Leonard Nyanzima, yesterday welcomed the sanctions.

In a statement he called on people to disobey the new rulers and said he expected sanctions to force the government into negotiations.

Somali chief Awol from US Marines

Christopher Reed in Los Angeles

THE FIRST battalion of the 14th US Marines Reserve stationed in Pico Rivera, a poor Los Angeles suburb, has given up waiting for the return of Awol corporal Mohammed Aided. He is, the troops assume, busy seeking power in Somalia.

Mr Aided, aged 34, has returned home to take over from his warlord father, the late General Farah Aided, who died in factional fighting last week.

In 1995, Gen Aided's troops killed 18 American soldiers, causing the United States to

withdraw from Somalia and thwarting the United Nations' disarmament mandate.

At the time, Aided Jr was a clerk, paid \$9 an hour, in the engineering department of West Covina, a Los Angeles suburb. He updated water maps, compiled traffic statistics, and input data on computer.

In the evening, he studied civil engineering at a nearby polytechnic, and at weekends he reported to the Marine corps reserve.

He had joined the corps in 1987, doing a fortnight's stint at a camp in Oklahoma in July last year. But a few weeks ago, despite orders, he failed to attend again.

"We're not expecting him but he is still a registered reservist," a spokeswoman said.

Mr Aided, in an interview in Somalia, said he was proud of his American military experience. "Once a marine, always a marine," he is reported to have said. However, he did not mention that he was absent without leave.

He came to the US as a teenager with his mother Asil Dhubat. The couple had six children. The general fathered four more with a second wife who, according to Canadian newspapers, lived on welfare in Toronto.

The young Aided gradu-

ated from Covina high school in 1981, but he was not active in sports or the social scene and did not appear in the students' year books.

Gen Aided — the name means "He who will not be insulted" — paid in cash for a \$196,000 house for Mrs Dhubat Aided in another LA suburb in 1988. She is thought to be still living there, but reporters who called at the house were turned away.

The Aideds are not the only high-ranking Somalis to have lived humdrum lives in the US. The general's foreign minister, Mohammed Hassan Awale, spent three years as a taxi driver in Washington DC.

News in brief

Sanctions on Iran 'mad'
A senior Iranian cleric told the United States yesterday that its law penalising firms investing in Iran and Libya was "absolutely insane" and would harm Washington and its allies.

Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati said in a sermon broadcast by Iranian radio: "I do not think that throughout the history of America there has been a president who has surrendered himself to the Zionists so blindly and unconditionally." — Reuter.

Gambia backs poll
Gambian voters have given a 70 per cent backing to a new constitution giving its mili-

tary ruler, Captain Yahya Jammeh, the mandate to hold elections in which he is expected to be the main candidate. — Reuter.

Malraux honoured
The ashes of the writer André Malraux, General de Gaulle's long-serving culture minister, are to be buried in the Pantheon, the last resting place of France's illustrious dead, the Official Journal announced yesterday. — Reuter.

Sole searching
The Romanian state shoe factory in Cluj has closed for the weekend for disinfection following a strike in support of compensation for 40 workers who contracted scabies from sheepskin imported from China. — AP.

Bouncing back
Seven mountain gorillas have been born in Rwanda, a good sign that one of Africa's most endangered species is recovering, the International Gorilla Conservation Programme said. — AP.

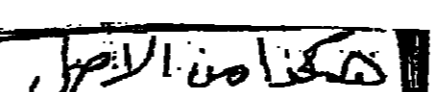
Rare tomb
Archaeologists have found the undisturbed tomb of a Scythian military commander containing 1,000 gold and silver decorations and weapons in central Ukraine. — AP.

Rare beast
Villagers in eastern Laos have caught a sao la, a rare mammal similar to an antelope, whose existence was discovered only four years ago,

the Laotian state news agency KPL reported. — AP.

Island glory
Thanks to its tiny population, Tonga's single silver medal at the centennial Olympics — in boxing — put it top of the table with 94 medals per million people. The US score of 0.4 put it 40th, according to Kevin Pollard of the Population Reference Bureau. — AP.

Fellow feeling
Yasser Arafat's wife Soha has advised the Israeli prime minister's wife Sarah Netanyahu to ignore those who deride her for sacking the nanny who burned the soup. "I also argue with my housekeeper... so what?" she told the daily paper Yedioth Ahronot. — AP.





The Spanish Civil Guard and Red Cross workers carry the body of a victim of the flood at Las Nieves campsite. At least 76 people were killed.

PHOTOGRAPH: J. J. GUILLEN

Questions start over Pyrenees camp tragedy

David Harrison in Jaca and Julia Hayley in Madrid

THE REGION OF Aragon declared three days of mourning yesterday for the holidaymakers at a Pyrenees campsite who were swept to their deaths by flash floods on Wednesday.

With the death toll standing at 76 so far, the debate was concentrating on how the disaster at Las Nieves could have been prevented.

The meteorological office had warned of heavy storms due in the area. A children's summer camp 12 miles away from Las Nieves had been evacuated as a precaution. It emerged that Las Nieves and sites nearby were not.

Both the meteorological office and the civil protection department were adamant that this type of storm was highly localised. "These storms are very difficult to pinpoint exactly. It could rain very hard 10km away, and where you are nothing falls at all," said Juan San Nicolas Santamaría, the civil protection director.

The camp was built 12 years ago in a fold of the Pyrenees beside the Gallego river where it is joined by the smaller Aras, which runs from the mountains behind the site.

The flow of the Aras is controlled by man-made barriers. Experts have suggested that trees and rocks which were washed down by the rain might have built up behind a barrier, creating a temporary dam until the whole structure gave way, unleashing the flood on campers below.

"The campsite had an excellent reputation and no one had questioned its set-up," said Santiago Lanzuela, governor of the Aragon region.

Francisco Ayala, a director of the Technical and Geomining Institute, was less sure. He told the Spanish news agency Efe: "A campsite like Las Nieves on the flood plain of a potentially torrential river... is the chronicle of a catastrophe foretold."

All sides in Bosnia are manipulating voters ahead of the September 14 elections. Ed Van Thijn, the Dutch diplomat overseeing the international monitoring of the vote said yesterday.

Election laws permit voters to register either where they lived in 1991, where they live now or where they would like to live.

Mr Van Thijn said Bosnian Serb authorities had pressured Serbs to vote in territory under their rule to strengthen their claim to secession from Bosnia.

In the bustle at the rink at Jaca, it was not difficult to pick out the relatives of victims. They were the ones with red-rimmed eyes and a frightened stare.

As a bag was opened and a name put to a muddy and often disfigured face, the tears would run down creased, crushed faces. "No, no! For Dios, No!" cried a frantic woman in her forties. She stumbled and was helped to a chair by at least five people.

A young man in his twenties sat staring ahead in silence, wild-eyed with incomprehension and grief. "His mother and his father," said a Red Cross worker, his own eyes moist. "How can this happen when you are on holiday?"

Other relatives were still waiting. But yesterday the talk was no longer about survivors, though rescue workers kept digging.

Most of the 657 campers registered at the site have now been accounted for — though

As a name was put to a muddy and often disfigured face, tears would run down creased, crushed faces

An official noted it was difficult to know how many others might have been in the area when the storm hit.

Unofficial estimates said 20 people could still be missing. About 40 were still in hospital. All of the identified victims were Spaniards except for two, a French girl and a Dutch man, the national civil protection department said.

The British embassy said it had located 14 British holidaymakers who had been at the site. They had only minor injuries.

Roy Ward, a statistics lecturer at Sheffield Hallam University, yesterday revisited the site. He and his wife Ann, a catering assistant, and their two children — Oliver, 9, and Rhea, 6 — were in their caravan when the torrent swept it away.

"My son shouted, 'We're going to die' and I said, 'No we're not son'. But watching the news today, some kids have. Mine haven't, so I am lucky," he said. The caravan came to a halt when it crashed into a tree.

Looters prey on those who stayed put, as Croats arrive to create an ethnically homogeneous state

Krajina Serbs live on hope and scraps

Julian Borger in Polaca, Krajina

ALONE among the crumbling remains of her deserted village, Marija Radinovic is steadily losing her sense of time. The rest of Polaca's 2,000 inhabitants fled to Serbia a year ago, but to her it seems like last week. She expects her family back any day, but they will almost certainly never come.

Mrs Radinovic is also unsure whether it was last week or last month when the last gang of Croat looters drove up to pick over Polaca's remains. But she knows they left with her last dozen chickens. Since then, she has lived off fruit from the trees growing in untended orchards in the dry, rocky valley.

There are only about 10,000 Serbs left in Croatia's Krajina region. Like Mrs Radinovic, they are elderly people, who were too weak, or too emotionally tied to their land, to leave when the bulk of the Krajina Serbs — 200,000 people — fled from a Croatian government offensive a year ago this week. Hundreds more were killed in the random savagery which followed the offensive.

The lonely remainder — surviving in ones, twos or threes in abandoned hamlets — have become a statistic anomaly in the ruthless arithmetic of ethnic engineering.

They are being squeezed out by thousands of ethnic Croats from Bosnia and the Kosovo region of Yugoslavia who are being transported in to build an ethnically homogeneous state, more in keeping with the times.

Like some endangered species, the last Krajina Serbs are dying off. They have no family support network, and the bureaucratic and threadbare Croatian social welfare system is hardly a substitute.

To secure a pension, elderly Serbs have to travel 50 miles to the port city of Zadar, usually more than once, to exchange their Yugoslav documentation for new Croatian papers. Most cannot afford the journey, even if they are strong enough.

Their only visitors are occasional relief workers and, more often, looters. These are mostly newly arrived Croats who pilfer livestock, farm implements, and food reserves.

A gang recently moved through the nearby village of Orlic, ransacking Serb houses for *prasa* — smoked hams which take a year to prepare, and which are the main form of peasant savings. There have been few recent cases of outright murder but the robberies can amount to a death sentence.

Mrs Radinovic has stacked firewood around her stone house, but she has no food reserves and it will be a miracle if she survives another winter — her 83rd.

Giuseppe Renda, an International Red Cross worker, who comes to see her each week, said: "Many of these old people survived the winter on the hope their families would come back in the spring. But the people are not coming back, and I think when they realise that, they won't have the strength to make it."

Mr Renda has tried to persuade Mrs Radinovic to enter an old people's home in Knin, the nearest town, but Marija believes fervently that her daughter and son-in-law in

Belgrade will come back. "They're not far away. They might be here tomorrow," she told Mr Renda.

But her daughter has informed the Red Cross she has no plans to come back.

Her husband, as a man of military age, would almost certainly be killed. Only women and the elderly are tolerated.

An estimated 30,000 of the Krajina Serbs who fled the "Storm" offensive last year now want to return to their homes in Croatia. The Croatian government has said officially they are welcome but it has put a forest of bureaucracy in their way and has done little to curb attacks against would-be returnees.

In May and June, at least two Serbs were killed and a dozen seriously injured by mines and booby traps planted in homes, gardens and graveyards they had come to tend around the town of Korenica. About 90 Serb homes in the region have been dynamited in the past few months — in many cases after their owners started making repairs.

The Croatian government is preparing to import Catholics of Croat descent from Kosovo to fill Serb houses, making it virtually impossible for their owners to return.

Workers for the United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR) in Knin say a delegation came from Kosovo last month to inspect deserted

Serb villages in the Kistanje area, west of Knin. They say 1,800 Kosovo Catholics are expected by the end of the year.

When they arrive, they will be completing a circle begun 400 years ago, when their ancestors left for Kosovo from what is now the Croatian port of Dubrovnik.

These ethnic Croats are being pushed out of Kosovo by new Serb arrivals, many of whom are refugees from Krajina, sent by Belgrade to farm and dilute the Albanian majority in the region.

The Kistanje district is run by Petar Fasic, a Serb loyal to the Croatian government. He sees no alternative to the relentless process of ethnic homogenisation now under way: "It could have been done a long time ago — in peace."

For all the — largely Western-sponsored — talk of rein-

tegration and federation in the Balkans, the wheels of ethnic purification have been turning faster in peacetime than they did during most of the conflict. This time round, the casualties succumb quietly and unseen, in overgrown, empty villages.

All sides in Bosnia are manipulating voters ahead of the September 14 elections. Ed Van Thijn, the Dutch diplomat overseeing the international monitoring of the vote said yesterday.

Election laws permit voters to register either where they lived in 1991, where they live now or where they would like to live.

Mr Van Thijn said Bosnian Serb authorities had pressured Serbs to vote in territory under their rule to strengthen their claim to secession from Bosnia.



Sinners seek absolution from on-line confessional

Ian Traynor

SINNERS' blushes be separated. After the drive in church and the telly evangelist, Roman Catholics less than eager to come clean with their parish priest can now confess as heavily as using a condom (22 points against three), while marital infidelity costs 10 points.

Having completed your confession, the computer adds up the bill and doles out penance. Murder costs 50 Our Fathers and 50 Hail Marys. The jury is still out on whether the transgressor is then absolved.

"This does not conform to the Catholic understanding of confession," a spokeswoman for the German Conference of Bishops said yesterday.

World news in brief

Scientists claim genes hold answer to Aids immunity

RESEARCHERS claim they have discovered why some people never contract the HIV virus although they have sex repeatedly with infected partners, writes Ian Katz in New York.

Two separate teams say they have identified a genetic mutation — present in about 1 per cent of caucasians and in even lower proportions, if at all, in other racial groups — which appears to give some people protection against the virus.

The discovery raises the possibility that the effect of the mutation could be copied

to create an Aids vaccine or a treatment for the disease.

The two studies, one led by New York's Rockefeller University, and the other by the Free University in Brussels, focused on a protein found on cells of the immune system which serves as a "molecular doorway" for the HIV virus.

Every person has two copies of the gene required to produce the CD4 proteins. Only people with two mutant genes appeared to be immune to the disease, but researchers believe that one mutant gene may afford some resistance.

Chinese port in peril

The Chinese authorities have evacuated about 10,000 people and prepared to blow up dikes and divert a swollen river to spare the city of Tianjin from flooding, officials said.

Tianjin, 75 miles south-east of Beijing, is the capital's port and with 9 million people the country's third city. It has about 2,000 foreign companies. — Reuters.

Heavy hand

The Argentine government has attracted widespread criticism for its heavy-handed response to a 24-hour general strike on Thursday in which police kicked over cauldrons of food to prevent soup kitchens being set up, attacked crowds with truncheons and water cannons, and briefly arrested more than 50 trades unionists. — Agencies.

Kings to meet

King Hussein of Jordan will visit Saudi Arabia tomorrow to discuss Middle East peace efforts and find ways to boost bilateral ties, officials in Amman said. — Reuters.

Family massacre

A Greek law student confessed yesterday to murdering his parents, grandmother, sister and uncle and dismembering them with a chainsaw. Police said the 24-year-old was mentally disturbed. — Reuters.

Taipei liaison

Russia, which does not officially recognise Taiwan, will open a representative office in Taipei in October, the Taiwan foreign ministry said. Taiwan opened an office in Russia three years ago. — Reuters.

Tamil rebels hit cargo ship

SRI LANKAN Tamil rebels blasted a Philippine-registered cargo ship with an underwater device yesterday, the military said, as the guerrillas reported a fierce battle with government troops near the rebel-held northern town of Kilinochchi.

The ship attack followed a skirmish between the Sri Lankan navy and guerrilla Sea Tiger boats last on Thursday off the north-eastern port of Mullaitivu. A military statement said a rebel boat was destroyed, killing about 30 Sea Tigers.

In a separate incident in the northeast, Tamil rebels attacked an army patrol north of the naval base of Trincomalee on Friday, killing eight soldiers, according to military officials. — Reuters.

Caymans buy ship to sink it

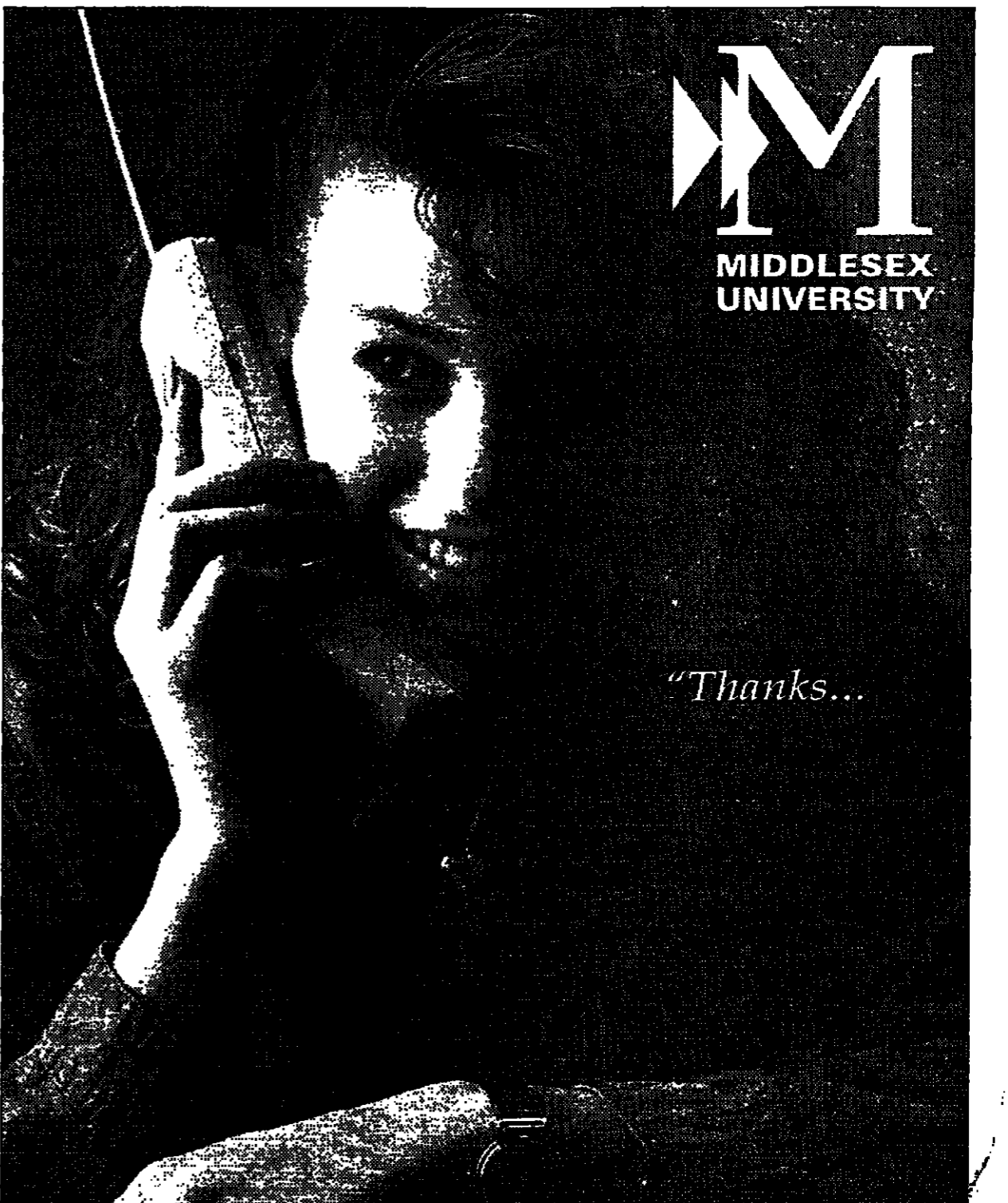
SANDY spot on the bottom of the Caribbean Sea will be the final resting place of a Russian cold war relic which tourism officials hope will act as a magnet for scuba divers.

The Cayman government has confirmed that it has bought an abandoned Russian destroyer.

The tourism minister, Thomas Jefferson, said that about \$185,000 was paid for the 380ft ship, which was built in 1983 at a cost of about \$20 million.

It will be towed to Cayman Brac Island later this month where it will be sunk in 110ft of water.

The Cayman Islands are world-renowned as a top destination for scuba divers. — Reuters.



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Rugby Union

All Blacks out to rewrite the legend

Ian Borthwick in Cape Town

FOUR-TEST series between New Zealand and South Africa is something to quicken the blood of the rugby enthusiast...

bok right-wing Pieter Hendriks, Osborne with the ball in hand is still one of the world's most dangerous attackers.

The major problem for New Zealand at Newlands today may well be the conditions. After a week of fine weather rain lashed the city all day yesterday...

"Our weaknesses in the last two Tests have been our ball retention and the fact we have not been able to maintain momentum by getting multi-phase possession..."

Since competition between the two teams started 75 years ago the New Zealanders have never won a series here.

"Of course it's a challenge," Fitzpatrick said. "It is the challenge and the dream of any New Zealand kid to come here and beat the Springboks."

With South Africa having lost their full-back Andre Joubert and prop Balie Swart through injury, the odds would appear to favour New Zealand for today's match.

The elusive Glen Osborne comes in for Lomu on the left wing and, though the 44kg (97 lb) difference in weight may be a relief for the Spring-



Good year... Damon Hill behind the wheel of the Williams-Renault at the Hungaroring yesterday

Motor Racing

Williams work on Hill starts

Alan Henry in Budapest

AFTER poor starts from pole position at Silverstone and Hockenheim, Damon Hill has had to brush up his technique before taking on the grand prix circuit that is the most unforgiving of poor starts.

Having won here in 1993 and 1995, Hill knows better than most that overtaking at the Hungaroring, one of the tightest and ugliest circuits on the Formula One schedule, is almost totally dependent on a mistake by the driver in front.

Hill completed the first free practice session yesterday with fastest time ahead of Michael Schumacher's Ferrari and his team-mate Jacques Villeneuve's Williams-Renault...

gearing impressed many observers, is 21 points behind Hill with 50 still to fight for over the five remaining races of the season.

Schumacher's car has failed to complete three of the past four races through one fault or another but the Ferrari look like the biggest threat to Williams this time.

Further back Martin Brundle's Jordan was up 11th with David Coulthard's McLaren 14th, performances that served to underline just what a lottery Friday practice can turn out to be.

Tomorrow's race will be the last Hungarian Grand Prix until the foreseeable future. Next year the race is being replaced by a fixture on the heavily revamped A1 Ring circuit, an emaciated and truncated revision of the epic Osterreichring where Nelson Piquet set a pole lap of 1:50.000 for his Williams FW18C in 1987.

Welsh winners meet for new cup

NEATH and Pontypridd are to meet at Cardiff Arms Park on September 1 in a Welsh rugby union equivalent of soccer's Charity Shield.

The new contest, called the Welsh Champions Cup challenge match, will replace the Anglo-Welsh game cancelled earlier this month.

RFU officials this weekend could not better encapsulate contrasting post-Olympic moods. Linford Christie's final appearance at the south London track tomorrow will be before rows of empty seats whereas Olympic champions galore have gathered on the French Riviera.

Three were staged before the Olympics and Christie still faces more than certain

Athletics

Overfed fans shun Christie's Palace farewell as Atlanta achievers flock to the Riviera

CRYSTAL PALACE and Monte Carlo this weekend could not better encapsulate contrasting post-Olympic moods.

calls at Gt Stovehead and Sheffield before bowing out. All Britain's individual medallists - Roger Black, Jonathan Edwards, Steve Backley, Steve Smith and Denise Lewis - are competing with Black racing his 4 x 400m relay silver medal colleagues Iwan Thomas, Jamie Baulch and Mark Richardson over 300m.

today could well be a man who missed Atlanta. Wilson Kipketer, who has yet to be naturalised Danish and would not run for his native Kenya, is planning to break Sebastian Coe's 800 metres record set 15 years ago.

Veboern Rodal's winning run at Atlanta if Coe's record is eclipsed, Kipketer would have the consolation of one of the £35,000 prizes on offer for setting a world best.

The Algerian Noureddine Morceli may also be in the mood to boost his bank balance in the 1500m. He could feel inspired to better his world record of 3:27.37 set at Nice 13 months ago as he

reaches the man he deposed as Olympic champion, Ferrnando Cacho of Spain, the silver medal winner in Atlanta.

Lingfield tonight

Table of horse racing results for Lingfield, including race numbers, names, and times.

Worcester (N.H.) programme tonight

Table of horse racing results for Worcester (N.H.), including race numbers, names, and times.

Results

Table of horse racing results for various tracks, including race numbers, names, and times.

Results

Table of horse racing results for various tracks, including race numbers, names, and times.

Market Rasen (N.H.) tonight

Table of horse racing results for Market Rasen, including race numbers, names, and times.

Results

Table of horse racing results for various tracks, including race numbers, names, and times.

Results

Table of horse racing results for various tracks, including race numbers, names, and times.

Results

Table of horse racing results for various tracks, including race numbers, names, and times.

Advertisement for 'RACELINE' featuring a grid of race results and commentary for various tracks like Haydock, Newmarket, and Worcester.

The Guardian Saturday August 10 1996

Golf

David Davies sees Phil Mickelson lead the field with his second 67 at the US PGA championship in Louisville

Woosnam stays in the hunt

PHIL MICKELSON, the superbly talented left-hander, took an early and possibly permanent grip on the US PGA Championship yesterday at Valhalla Golf Club here in Kentucky. A second round 67 gave him a total of 134 and a four-stroke advantage over the local man Kenny Perry and the Filipino Vijay Singh.

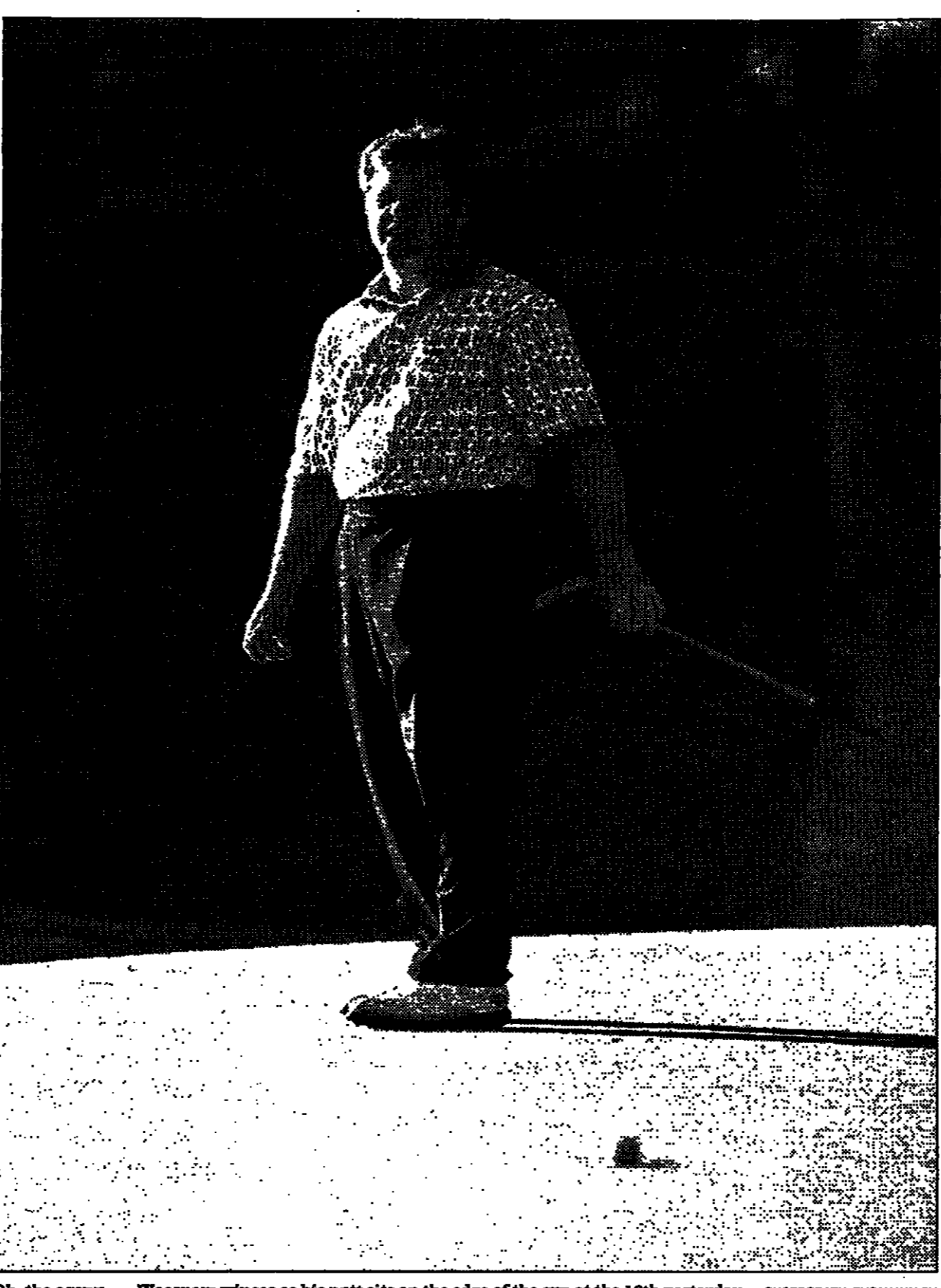
But Ian Woosnam, in one of his least favoured events, was at four under after the second round 72 that put him on the early leader board at joint fourth with Greg Norman and Tom Watson. At the other end of the scale was Colin Montgomerie, playing in one of his designated favourite events, who emphatically missed the cut after a second-round 78.

VALHALLA CARD

Table with 4 columns: Hole, Yds, Par, and Score. Lists scores for various players like Mickelson, Perry, and Woosnam.

should have been on the list for the second round, and officials rushed the players through, giving the Welshman a taste for anything other than a banana. Sometimes, when the mood is on them, players like to go straight on in these circumstances but Woosnam, who is taking medication for sinus trouble, looked weary. There was no spark at all about his play as he stalked and dodged at the long 2nd. This is an arboreal wonder, featuring on the one side a densely vegetated marsh and on the other a 300yd long (and 150ft high) bank of oak and ash trees, a magnificent sight.

Woosnam, after a good drive, had to wait ages for the green to clear and, rather than view the vista, he sat on his bag smoking a cig. Eventually he dragged his second left, chipped weakly and settled for a same par. At four under par he was at this point, joint sixth, but on a lovely sunny day with soft but true greens, it was obvious that something exceptional was going to be needed.



Oh, the agony... Woosnam winces as his putt sits on the edge of the cup at the 16th yesterday

Lane blocked by brother of fame and an ambidextrous Italian

Michael Britten in Litschau and Italy's Massimo Scarpa. Pinerio also had a 66 yesterday while Higgins, son of the Waterville professional, had a leading light on the British Open at Woburn, shot 67 and the Italian 62.

Wadsworth makes impact at last as Davies fades

Wadsworth holed par-saving single putts at the 15th and 16th before finding the green with a four-iron second for her final birdie. There were eagles galore on a day of low scoring but not for the world No 1 Laura Davies, who struggled to a 74.

Results

Rugby League

ALLIANCE Canterbury 26, Warrington 22; North 20, Wigan 10; Halifax 20, Bradford Bulls 14; Wakefield Trinity 24, Leeds Rhinos 14; Rochdale Hornets 9, Huddersfield 14.

Golf

US PGA CHAMPIONSHIP (Valhalla, KY). Mickelson 67, Perry 67, Woosnam 72, Norman 72, Watson 72, Montgomerie 78, Singh 78, Davies 78, Pinerio 78, Higgins 78, Scarpa 78, Britten 78, Lane 78, Wadsworth 78, Davies 78.

Baseball

NATIONAL LEAGUE Houston 6, Montreal 2; Florida 10, New York 3; Pittsburgh 3, San Diego 12; Atlanta 1, Philadelphia 4; St Louis 3, San Francisco 10.

Tennis

ATP CHAMPIONSHIP (Miami, Fla). Andre Agassi 6-3, 6-2, 6-1 vs Andre Panatta; Andre Agassi 6-3, 6-2, 6-1 vs Andre Panatta.

Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE Boston 4, Toronto 6; New York Yankees 4, Washington 4; Baltimore Orioles 1, Oakland 2; Seattle Mariners 3, Detroit 3; Texas 2, California 5; Minnesota 13.

Baseball

WORLD SERIES (San Marino). Yankees 5, Braves 3; Yankees 5, Braves 3; Yankees 5, Braves 3.

Baseball

INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE (London). England 1, South Africa 2; England 1, South Africa 2; England 1, South Africa 2.

Baseball

WORLD SERIES (San Marino). Yankees 5, Braves 3; Yankees 5, Braves 3; Yankees 5, Braves 3.

Baseball

WORLD SERIES (San Marino). Yankees 5, Braves 3; Yankees 5, Braves 3; Yankees 5, Braves 3.

Baseball

WORLD SERIES (San Marino). Yankees 5, Braves 3; Yankees 5, Braves 3; Yankees 5, Braves 3.

Baseball

WORLD SERIES (San Marino). Yankees 5, Braves 3; Yankees 5, Braves 3; Yankees 5, Braves 3.

Baseball

WORLD SERIES (San Marino). Yankees 5, Braves 3; Yankees 5, Braves 3; Yankees 5, Braves 3.

Rugby League

Keighley eye Pennine way

KEIGHLEY Cougars have high hopes of playing Super League games at Burnley's Turf Moor football ground following a meeting with the rugby league club and the game's chief executive Maurice Lindsay.

would play A-team and Academy games there, with our Super League games being played at an alternative venue, possibly Turf Moor. He said that Burnley's facilities are excellent and the rugby club would be confident of attracting the biggest attendances in Super League.

Paris match can move Saints closer

ST HELENS can expect to move a step closer to their first championship for 21 years when they meet Paris St Germain at the Charley Stadium tonight.

Saints side with Alan Hume back in the centre, although they will be without Chris Joynt and Vila Matautia.

Rowing

Pinsent seeks rest and gold metal

MATTHEW PINSENT watched the world rowing championships in Atlanta here yesterday and pondered life after Olympic gold.

Olympic team? "Shearer puts bums on seats - the Olympics fills the papers once every four years and it seems strange we can't give some priority to the Olympic team."

Sport in brief

Equestrianism

NICK SKELTON and John Whitaker had double clear rounds as Britain rebounded from the disappointments of Atlanta to win the Nations Cup event in Dublin, even though the final margin of victory was only half a point ahead of Ireland.

Boxing

Chavez furious at drug 'smear'

JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ, accused of wife-beating, tax evasion and money laundering, took a full-page advertisement in a Mexico City newspaper on Thursday to counter what he alleges is a smear campaign.

Sailing

Cudmore cuts the comedy

IF LIFE was a comedy of errors at Cowes Week yesterday, the errors were clerical, navigational and organizational, but most could be laughed away while serious matters were addressed.

Tennis

Jennifer Capriati's promising run in the Canadian Open became a pain in the backside yesterday when the unseeded American retired before the end of the first set against Magdalena Maleeva with a guttural strain on her left side.

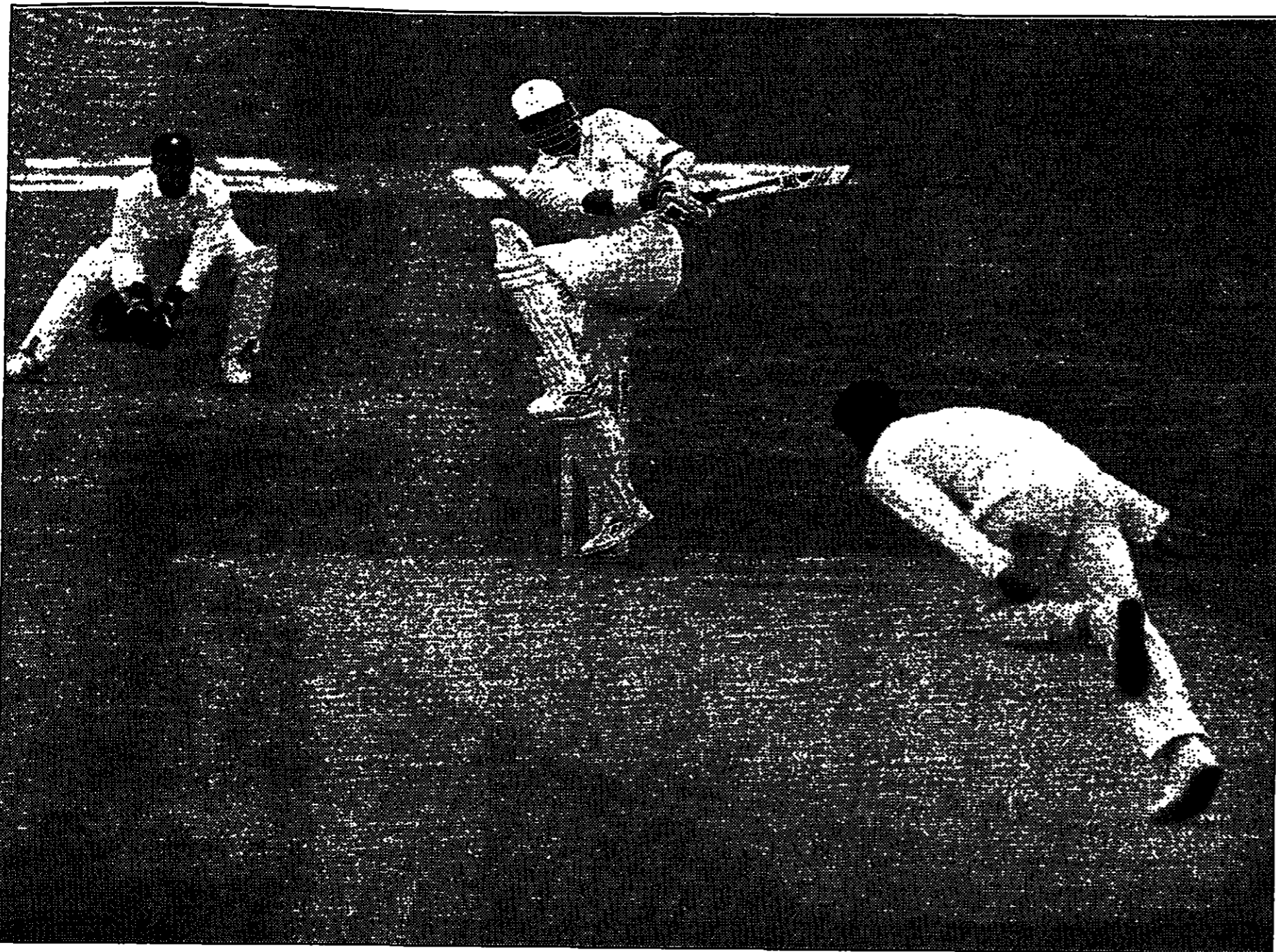
Soccer comes back with a bang, page 10

Woosnam revels in the chase, page 11

Hill sets the pace in Hungary, page 9

Sports Guardian

ENGLAND EMBARK ON STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL AT HEADINGLEY AS LORD'S LOOKS AHEAD



Smart Alec... Stewart pulls Waqar Younis for four yesterday evening on the way to an unbeaten 52 off 66 balls

PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

England v Pakistan: second Test, second day

Stewart leads the fight-back

Mike Selvey sees England win the last session after losing the first two to Moin

As people are fond of saying, cricket is a metaphor for life. Then sometimes it works the other way around. Yesterday evening, shortly after five o'clock, Wasim Akram pattered up the hill from the Football Stand End and produced a wicked break-back that clipped the inside edge of Mike Atherton's bat before losing itself in the gloves of the tumbling Moin Khan. As Wasim danced his delight and Atherton trudged off, an alarm bell began sounding in the press-box. It may have been sounding also in the minds of the players on the adjacent balcony for, after the best part of two days, England were floundering. A draw remains their best

hope but the depression was lifted somewhat in the 25 overs that England were required to face last night when, despite the early loss of Atherton for 12 after one thunderous back-foot boundary, the response was spirited, led by Alec Stewart and Nasser Hussain. Stewart counter-attacked with brilliance, pulling courageously and timing the ball wonderfully well off his legs. By the close he had hit six fours in his 51, made out of England's 104 for one, having added 90 in 22 overs for the second wicket with Hussain. However, England require a further 145 to avoid following on and the ease of the batting yesterday should not obscure the magnitude of

the task ahead. The feared Waqar Younis was pummeled mercilessly for 37 runs from four overs but his new-ball bowling has always been a relatively weak point. Lord's showed that when the ball gets older and the Pakistani bowling geniuses — seamers and spinners alike — crank up a gear, the game can change in an hour. Recognition of the benign nature of the pitch now should not turn to complacency. The England bowlers suffered for the first two sessions — retribution perhaps for the sins of the first day, when they wasted the opportunity to take the upper hand, Pakistan, resuming their innings on 281 for six, were not dismissed until after tea, by which time they had made 448. Moin contributed a vibrant 105, his third Test century, and Asif Mujtaba 51 patient, invaluable runs

before he was caught at slip off Dominic Cork, the only wicket to fall before tea. Cork's game persistence was to bring him five wickets in an innings for the third time in his Test career but they cost him dear. If they ever have squad numbers for bowlers, they should perhaps be based on runs conceded. Graham Thorpe, who sent down three insipid overs for nine, would be Shearer; Alan Mullaly, with two first-day wickets but none yesterday, can fight Ferdinand for doctor's orders. Chris Lewis (none for 100), Andy Caddick (three for 113) and Cork (five for 113) would require six months on the chest expanders before they could fit their shirts. On a pitch that flattened out yesterday but which for most of the first day had offered almost promiscuous encouragement, these are not bowling figures of which to be proud. As a pain in the English butt, Moin comes somewhat between haemorrhoids and a red-hot poker. After Atherton's team had reached the ground floor in the build-up to the World Cup last spring, it was Moin who led Karachi City to a win that took their confidence down to the basement. And as a substitute fielder perched in at silly point at Lord's, he caused even the tactician England captain to appeal to the umpire for peace and quiet. Yesterday he ran England ragged. He is one of five players to have led Pakistan in the last two years and is a talented batsman whose first Test century was instrumental in clinching a series win over Australia, but he has never been a regular. Moin has probably never seen the films of WC Fields but Never Give a Sucker an Even Break would be a good starting point, for he has profited immensely from a last-

minute injury to the previous wicketkeeping incumbent, Rashid Latif. Just as Ijaz Ahmed had done on the opening day, Moin rode his luck, reassured by Asif's steadiness in a record seventh-wicket stand against England of 112. But he had not added to his overnight score of eight when he flicked Caddick to long leg and Mullaly spilled a respectable chance. When 84, he offered a sharpish one-handed return catch to Cork. Earlier, when 18, Moin had booked Mullaly to Stewart at long leg only to find Steve Bucknor calling no-ball. Raz had been left off in the same way when 68. Test wickets are hard enough to come by without throwing them away like that; those two unforced errors cost England 160 runs. After this escape Moin played implishly, passing 50 before lunch and scampering the tightest of singles from the last ball of the second session to reach his century in a cloud of dust and triumph. He was finally out in the post-tea

gloom heaving at Cork. In just under five hours at the crease he had 10 fours and a six clumped back over Cork's head. The bowler looked bemused as if the wicketkeeper's audacity might drive him to drink. Fields, as he would have said, would have been eternally grateful.

The rise and rise of a third rebel

David Hopps on the touring role of John Emburey

WHEN prayers are offered at the next Test and County Cricket Board junket, perhaps something along the lines of "Lord's forgive them for their sins" might provide an appropriate starting point. John Emburey's appointment as England's assistant coach for the winter tours to Zimbabwe and New Zealand continues the unceremoniously rapid promotion of those who not so long ago incurred official wrath for joining rebel tours to South Africa while apartheid was still at its height. As well as recognition for Emburey, a double rebel, Graham Gooch, a rebel captain, and David Graveney, a rebel manager, have both been elected as selectors this summer. Many accused them of selling out for financial gain but nobody imagined that they had identified a career opportunity. Emburey, whatever, is a shrewd and sober individual, who should provide a satisfying counterpoint to David Lloyd's more innovative ways. "My Northants contract still has three more years to run and I'll see it out," Emburey said. "I'm not a rival for David's coaching job."

were still in the field and Moin Khan's doughty hundred drove them to distraction. Fred Trueman, in the radio commentary box, lost patience after half an hour. "I am now beyond wondering what's going on out there," he spluttered. On Fred's Scale of Incredulity, that is topped only by the lengthy monotone grunt which signifies that words have failed him. The Western Terrace was in stronger voice, no more so than Mike Marqusee, one of the most powerful advocates of the Hit Racism For Six campaign. Declarations by Asian spectators that Headingley had no distinctive racist problem left Marqusee aggrieved, fearing that it would be misinterpreted as an outright denial that racism exists in British sport. If the point needs clarifying, it is that it is costly hypocritical to single out Yorkshire cricket habitually when the issue exists nationwide. With that, at least, Marqusee concurs. Intriguingly the HR46 campaign has unearthed the fact that Headingley is the only Test ground in the country which explicitly bans racial abuse. Marqusee is right to press for others to follow. Those grounds which concocted an unnecessarily antagonistic ban on West Indian drums should get their priorities right.

The appointment brought some cheer for Raymond Illingworth, England's beleaguered chairman of selectors, who last year named him as his preferred heir apparent. Before play resumed yesterday Illingworth had stomped out to the middle, studied the splattering of ball marks in the middle of the pitch and chuntered that it was hard to know which end the bowler had been operating from. His frustration was understandable. Had England bowled respectably on the first day, an evening second-day pitch would have offered potential batting riches. Instead they

Emburey... 'not a rival'



Guardian COLLINS Crossword 20,728

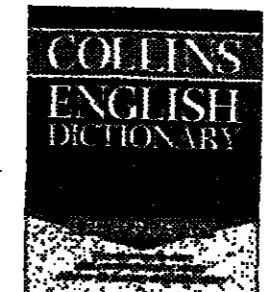
A copy of the Collins English Dictionary will be sent to the first five correct entries drawn. Entries to Guardian Crossword No 20,728, P.O. Box 315, Mitcham, Surrey, CR4 2AX, by first post on Friday. Solution and winners in the Guardian on Monday August 19.

Name: _____ Address: _____

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9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32

- Set by Bunthorne
- Across
- 1 A month since new figure developed (7)
 - 5 Has formed a relationship in this time to take over (4,3)
 - 9 Man of note, CCI Bunthorne? No, Gershwin (8,5,2)
 - 10 Division of two rivers, in a way (5)
 - 11 "18.22" ("The 3") (1,1,7)
 - 12 Dictator's involved in tax-free scheme with Italy's sausage production (8)
 - 14 "Frothe" -- to coin a word (5)
 - 15 The King's Own Scottish Whisky Producer (5)
 - 16 Raised and revealed by mud-slingers? (7,2)
 - 18,22 "Gone? Of That's 'un pays'" Terrific translation of 11 in "The 3" (3,4,2,1,7,7)
 - 21 Block many tax-evading bricks (5)
 - 22 See 18
 - 23 A type of Greek sailor retaining King Henry's lawyer (7)
 - 24 Simple Phillistine? (7)
- Down
- 1 Attacks one's origin: so raise the matter (5,2)
 - 2 Adversaria: taking placebo amid widespread approval (11,4)



- 3 Interstitial fixer? (2-7)
- 4 Lack of pulse in India? Get knotted! (5)
- 5 Such a post-dietary figure achieved with a thousand pills, hey? (8)
- 6 Organ pool? (5)
- 7 Hunt ball set used direct action (5,3,5)
- 8 Seers are said to have it (3,4)
- 13 Wrong recipe oats geld warfare (3,5)
- 14 Where the Lordships are euphoric? Pay attention! (4,5)
- 15 Come close to 3 1/2 percent VAT? (3,4)
- 17 Exophthalmic condition of spinach buffs (3-4)
- 19 Part-time army chaplain enters revolving bar (5)
- 20 Backbones of singular casualties (5)

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Joanna Coles interview

Outlook page 17

Clare Short hit PETER KELLN

Gamb on gun who w choos

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The Guardian Outlook

Clare Short hints that Labour has sold its soul to the 'dark men' of marketing. PETER KELLNER on how this shadowy band are making over British politics

Gambling on gurus who won't choose red

EVER since Julius Caesar was warned to beware the Ides of March, soothsayers — known today as polling and marketing advisers — have had a prickly relationship with politicians. Despised when they are wrong, and often when they are right, such advisers are condemned as uneducated, out of touch and far too powerful.

Clare Short's interview for this week's New Statesman is the latest arrangement of an old tune. She attacked "the obsession with the media and focus groups" by "people who live in the dark": a group that seems to comprise advisers both inside and outside Tony Blair's office. Her remarks were widely assumed to represent a coded attack on Blair himself. I am not so sure. Not only is the notion of Ms Short speaking in code fairly ludicrous to anyone familiar with her refreshing habit of speaking her mind, but the point she is making about the use and abuse of market research in politics is one I know she feels strongly.

Her interview raises serious questions about the way we do politics. How influential are the modern-day soothsayers? And do they deserve the power they wield?

The short answer is that their influence is large, growing and in the main well-deserved. There are dangers that are not always averted, just as there are always dangers in listening too slavishly to any expert. But most politicians need to understand their market — the electorate — just as car makers, brewers and detergent companies need to understand theirs.

Tony Blair grasps this. He pays particular heed to the focus groups conducted by Philip Gould. Gould is an outward-going enthusiast, whose extrovert manner conceals a nervous, but always cautious, about Labour's prospects. He was first brought into Blair's orbit in the mid-eighties by Peter Mandelson, who was then the party's director of communications. During the 1992 election Gould repeatedly warned Neil Kinnock not to believe the leads reported by the opinion polls; his focus groups showed that floating voters still did not trust the party.

After the election, however, Labour's new leader, John Smith, wanted to build his own team: for the next two years Gould's star waned. Blair's election as leader, and Mandelson's return to the inside track, brought Gould back to the cen-

tre of the action. Blair was recently asked whether the need for British political leaders to nurse local constituencies distorted national policy decisions. "I don't know about that," he replied. "I do remember something Clinton said, which is that there is no one more powerful in the world today than a member of a focus group. If you really want to change things and if you want to get listened to, that's where you want to be."

As with so many tools used in political market research, focus groups originated in the United States. They evolved in the 1940s from research into mental illness. Doctors found they could learn a great deal by observing the group dynamics of mental patients through one-way mirrors. During the fifties, advertising agencies began to adapt the psychiatric techniques by gathering groups of eight to 12 ordinary citizens together for one or two hours. The focus group was born.

It sounds a dodgy, surely anyone could do it? After all, what could be easier than to sit some people in a room, give them some refreshments, and get them to mull about politics, soap powder, foreign holidays, or whatever your client is trying to sell?

In fact, well-conducted focus groups involve specialist skills, often rooted in psychiatry. For example, most of us tend to be reserved and polite in the presence of strangers. Ask about an MP or a brand of pot noodles that they can't stand, and most people will say something blandly inoffensive along the lines of "so, so" or "I don't really know".

To overcome this caution, focus group companies have evolved a battery of projective techniques. If such-and-such a political party, or supermarket chain, were a car, what model would they be? What animal? What drink? Experience shows that people who are reluctant to say anything directly (or, for that matter, directly enthusiastic) are apt to reveal their true feelings when asked a projective question. How do you rate Acme fashion shoes? "OK, I suppose." If Acme fashion shoes were a car, what would they be? "A Trabek."

For some years, on both sides of the Atlantic, such questions were routinely asked and answered, with no public controversy, to help commercial companies improve their marketing. When United Distillers wanted to redesign its world-wide strategy for selling Johnny Walker Black Label whisky, it commissioned focus group research in 10 countries.



In one exercise, group members had to imagine that different brands of whisky were coming to a party. Which would behave well, and which would be rowdy? Which would talk together for one or two hours. Shortly before that election I sat in on a MORI focus group in Reading. It showed starkly how vast the distance was between the language of Labour's campaign and the concerns of floating voters.

Three things have happened to make focus groups a source of controversy. The first is they have moved from the background to the foreground of politicians' consciousness. Bill Clinton's victory in 1992 did more than anything else to give them publicity. His campaign team told how much they relied on focus groups. In mid-April, 1992, Clinton's campaign was in a bad way. Polls showed that he was distrusted; he trailed George Bush by 24 points.

Enter (according to Clinton's folk-lore) the unsung, anonymous heroine of the campaign: 10 women in Allentown, Pennsylvania, who were

brought together by Stan Greenberg, Clinton's pollster, to discuss the candidate's image. If Clinton were a colour, they were asked, which would he be? Plain, they replied. Asked to explain, they said "he just goes with the flow" and judges every issue.

GREENBERG then told the story of Clinton's life — his small-town upbringing, his alcoholic stepfather and so on. By the end of the session, the group had warmed to Clinton. Thus was born the strategy of persuading Clinton to fudge, less, and talk about his past more. Subsequently, whenever he seemed to be on the verge of fudging an issue, aides warned him not to "go plain".

Another group, this time of men, helped to persuade Clinton's team not to worry too much about defending or explaining the candidate's sexual morals. When the group's views were probed, and they

began to talk openly, each admitted to skeletons in the cupboard. Fans of focus group methods (such as Gould, who honed his own techniques by conducting some focus groups for the Clinton campaign on Greenberg's behalf) were excited by these discoveries. But opponents were appalled. Focus group-led campaigning seemed to take every politician. They can convey the impression that focus groups are undermining the integrity of the legal process. From there it is but a short step to mount the charge that party-funded focus groups undermine the integrity of politics.

The third, and perhaps most valid, reason for controversy concerns the way focus group findings are used. With conventional opinion polls, anyone with access to the computer tables can do their own analysis and draw their own conclusions. Pollsters have no monopoly in the business of interpretation.

Focus group analysis is different. Part of Gould's task is to distil hours of taped discussions and decide what matters most. When he reports to Blair, or Mandelson, or one of their committees, he applies his own blend of experience and political outlook. Inevitably, he is open to the charge of twisting the evidence to suit his own beliefs.

Such charges are misplaced. During the past two years I have sat in on six political focus group discussions for BBC's Newnight and On The Record. Two were conducted by NOP, four by Opinion Leader Research. In each case Blair's brand of Labour politics has been more popular with the voters Labour must attract than anything or anyone critic to his left in the party would prefer.

The conclusion is clear. There are legitimate concerns about the use of focus groups. But overall, most of the complaints have been no more than a new version of the age-old mistake of shooting the messenger.

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Don't bank on the Bank

WHAT should we do about the pre-electoral boom? If there are still any doubts about whether one is underway, then the latest batch of economic indicators should dispel them. Earlier in the week it was announced that new car sales in July were 17 per cent ahead of last year (and commercial sales up 12 per cent). Yesterday, a CBI survey showed that retail sales volume last month was the second highest this decade, amid increasing signs that the housing market is on the move after recovering from the post-Lawson implosion. Unemployment continues to come down and inflation remains subdued. It is, however, an extremely imbalanced recovery — relying on consumption rather than exports or investment — but strong nevertheless.

It would be even stronger — except that people sitting on building society accounts are reluctant to run down their savings in case they don't qualify for the one-off £17 billion windfall scheduled for next year. When they do, it will add another sharp stimulus to consumption — far bigger than the modest pre-

electoral tax cut Kenneth Clarke is planning for the autumn. This time the election boom has a large privatised element in it. The only trouble, from the Government's viewpoint, is that the timing is out of its hands. It is quite possible that the bulk of the building society hand-outs will be delayed until after the election, in which case it could be a bonus for an incoming Labour government.

But that is next year's worry. The problem of the moment is whether the Chancellor should raise interest rates. He is under very strong and very public pressure from Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, to raise rates now in order (so it is argued) to avoid having to raise them even higher later. Kenneth Clarke should resist this pressure at all costs.

The Bank of England is charged with keeping inflation low (rather than industrial production up) and, since it is the received wisdom in the Bank that there is a lag of up to two years before changes in interest rates affect inflation, it can be seen why the Governor is getting edgy. A stitch in time... But the Bank's logic can easily be inverted to form what might be called Eddie's paradox: if he raises interest rates now, then he may kill the conditions which would have enabled him to avoid raising interest rates later.

The Bank quite rightly worries that capacity constraints in two years' time may generate inflationary pressures. But one way to stop that is to raise investment so that there aren't any capacity constraints — thereby enabling the economy to expand in a non-infla-

tionary manner. No one has yet found a route to long-term growth that doesn't involve investment. But if the Chancellor raises interest rates now, then the modest recovery in investment we are now experiencing may be aborted. The golden goose will be killed. We don't know exactly why businessmen invest but it is closely related to the cost of capital and the prospect of a profitable market in which to sell.

In Britain, companies don't seem to invest heavily until they are right up against capacity shortages during booming conditions. If you abort those conditions, then you won't get the investment and Britain will be condemned to permanently lower growth. If the Bank doesn't believe this, it should look more carefully at one of its own research papers released this week. It argues that an increase of 1.1 per cent in interest rates reduces manufacturing output by 1.9 per cent after nine quarters (and construction by 2.1 per cent) while services decline by only 1 per cent.

If the Government really believes that consumption is getting out of hand — which is not the case at present — then there are other weapons to hand even if they are not designed to win an election. For instance, a rise in taxation would help to keep interest rates low and reduce the burgeoning borrowing requirement while not clobbering investment or housing. The trouble is that this is not something that appeals to Labour or the Conservatives during an election campaign. But the underlying realities won't disappear by being ignored. Normal service will be resumed next year.

The calculus of death

THE Watford rail crash was a dreadful and, almost certainly, avoidable tragedy: but it is important not to jump too quickly to conclusions. We know for sure that many of the passengers had a lucky escape: that both trains were relatively new 321 models, which saved lives, and that it was a blessing that neither train was going particularly fast. Nevertheless one woman — one of 400 commuters on the train — lost her life. Inevitably, the question of safety in a privatised rail system must be addressed.

These were North London Railways trains running on Railtrack track and signals. The fragmentation of the rail system between Railtrack and more than 90 operators and contractors has raised safety concerns about confusion over liability. Last month the all-party transport select committee condemned the way safety issues have been shunted into the sidings.

The Health and Safety Executive's inquiry into the crash will address the question of privatisation and safety. Good answers are urgently required. One thing of immediate relevance is the introduction of Automatic Train Protection (ATP), a safety device which automatically applies the brakes if the driver passes a red light. If this crash had been prevented by ATP, Sir Anthony Hadden's inquiry into the 1988 Clapham disaster, in which 35 passengers were killed, recommended the introduction of ATP within

five years, but this requirement was not met because it was too costly. The transport committee said it was "deeply disturbing" that ATP pilot schemes had been dropped. Particularly since, after the Cowden crash in 1984, Brian Mawhinney, then Transport Secretary, ruled out "back-sliding" on the commitment. Even so, as Dr Mawhinney admitted by March 1985, ATP had gone no further than "full consideration". ATP, it seems, was knocked on the head by imminent privatisation: the cost implications would have cut the flotation value.

ATP is expensive: the immediate introduction of ATP on all mainline routes would have cost £1 billion. Remember, you are far more likely to be in an accident walking or driving to the station rather than on the train. For each one billion passenger kilometres, there are 102 deaths on motorbikes, 68 pedestrians killed, 48 deaths on bicycles, 10.1 on ships, 4.2 in cars and only one on trains. The cost-benefit analysis is difficult, but it is likely that the cost of an ATP system wouldn't have been more than the administrative costs of privatising the railways.

Whether privatisation played a role in the Watford crash remains to be seen. The Health and Safety Executive will address the implications of privatisation in this case, and for rail safety across the board. We should not jump to conclusions before its report is published, until the findings of the internal Railtrack enquiry are announced, or before the black boxes are examined and the drivers interviewed. But if privatisation is found to threaten the high standard of train safety the public deserve and has come to expect, immediate action is required.

MARTIN WOOLLACOTT laments both the mean-spirited US bill which will cut welfare and the claim that this change for the worse is a reform

To have and have not

DR JOHNSON said: "A decent provision for the poor is the true test of civilisation." Where, then, does American civilisation stand after President Bill Clinton's assent to a welfare bill which will cut entitlement to aid and which, according to one of its critics, could push as many as a million children into poverty?

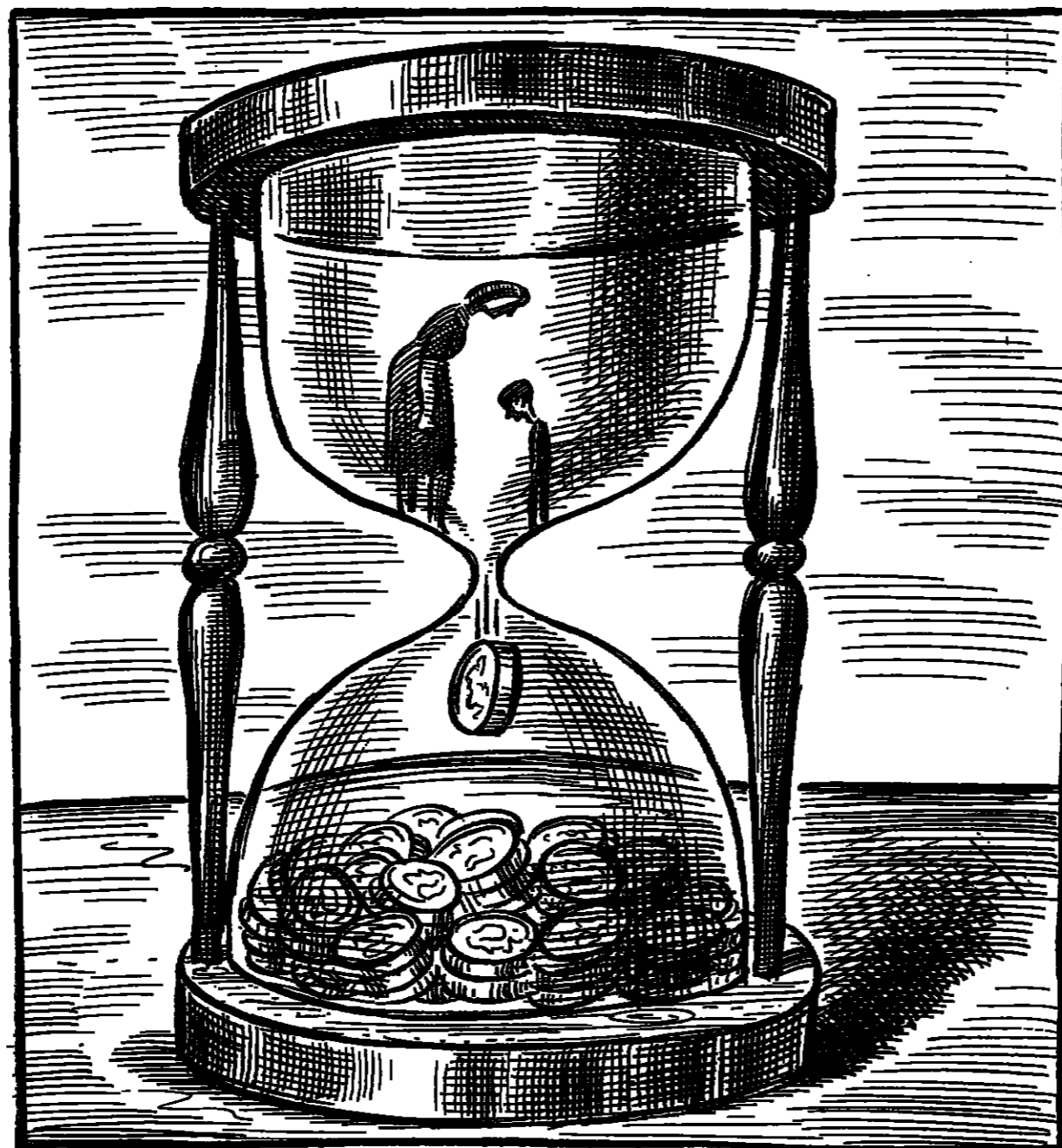
The answer is that it is diminished by his action, just as on this side of the Atlantic we are diminished by the efforts of our governments to "reform" our own welfare states. This hardly means that change in welfare is never desirable. But the very word "reform" attempts to capture the argument before it has begun. As Senator Daniel P. Moynihan has said, what is happening is not reform but repeal. Throughout the West, a concerted effort to redefine the problem of poverty, unemployment and low wages as the problem of welfare has prepared the way for such changes. A similar pre-emptive campaign insidiously suggests that we can no longer afford pensions and health care and public housing, as presently constituted, and that what is happening is not reform but repeal. Throughout the West, a concerted effort to redefine the problem of poverty, unemployment and low wages as the problem of welfare has prepared the way for such changes. A similar pre-emptive campaign insidiously suggests that we can no longer afford pensions and health care and public housing, as presently constituted, and that what is happening is not reform but repeal.

prepares the way for future reductions and privatisations. The one blurs argument, the other is intended to blur responsibility for what may be coming.

The worst thing about most of the "reforms" is that they are not even honest in their own terms. They propose to end dependency by putting people back to work but recoil from the costs and difficulties of actually doing so. Or they propose to transfer responsibility from the state to individuals for, say, pensions, but do this at precisely the time when a substantial minority can no longer look forward to the well-paid, secure work that could have financed such a shift.

The American bill ends the federal government's commitment to provide aid to poor Americans, turning that back to the states. Limits benefits to five years, forces welfare recipients to work, bans welfare aid to legal immigrants, and cuts food stamps. Almost certainly, it will change less than it pretends to, shifting around the forms and sources of funding even as it imposes more uncertainty and humiliation on the individuals whose lives it will affect. But it will legally embody certain tendencies, certain meanings. First, it pulls back the federal government from its role of providing a counterweight to the prejudice, incompetence and tight-fistedness of state and local government. That was a role which, under Roosevelt, then under Johnson, the federal government played very effectively, providing for a time the heartening spectacle of one set of government agencies harassing others into significantly better behaviour.

Second, by encouraging all kinds of experimental policies, it regionalises welfare, allowing local government and local business to do what they will with "their" poor. Third, by its definition of the problem as one of work-shyness or work refusal, it shifts responsibility



for poverty from the workings of society and the economy, and the government's oversight of these, to poor individuals themselves. Finally, it victimises immigrants, punishing the sick and elderly, many with long American working lives behind them, for the alleged free rides of other immigrants.

The welfare explosion in the US in the sixties was an aspect of one of the most important political changes in that country and the West since the second world war. Black Americans, their lives turned upside down by the agricultural modernisation of the South, traumatised by the experience of migration, and of unemployment in the Northern cities to which many of them had moved, increasingly riotous and unruly, claimed the attention of their fellow citizens. The response was the Civil Rights movement, the Great Society, and the welfare revolution. Poor Americans, black and white, demanded and got bene-

fits they had never had before. Some were new, some had always existed on paper but had been denied in practice. White liberals helped. The American welfare revolution had its influence on the European welfare states as well. Its style and flamboyance affected inner cities in all the industrial states.

It was a time of idealism and good intentions. But, undoubtedly, the welfare explosion was in part a placatory reaction to the anger of the poor, particularly the black poor. The American political scientist, Frances Fox Piven and Richard A Cloward, in their study of the American welfare state, *Regulating the Poor*, proposed the theory that welfare expansion represents government's response to an assertive and potentially dangerous poor. Welfare reduction, on the other hand, represents a reversion to welfare's more normal, work-enforcing role, in which the poor and unemployed are given harsh treatment of a kind that

makes even poor-quality jobs seem a better alternative. This is so whether or not jobs are actually available, for the purpose is not primarily to find jobs for those out of work but to stage a warning drama for all workers. This understanding of the evolution of American welfare does not have to be wholly accepted. But it makes a plausible connection between falling welfare benefits and falling real wages, and the efforts of corporations to cut labour costs. "The moral seems clear," they write. "A placid poor gets nothing, but a turbulent poor sometimes gets something."

The poor, and workers in general, in America are clearly more passive than they were in the sixties when their mobilisation was part of a more general, cross-class phenomenon. In Europe there is more resistance to welfare cuts, particularly in France. But in both continents, "reformers" push their plans.

Their failure to recognise

how backneyed are their arguments about work and dependency is dispiriting. Indeed, those arguments go back to Elizabethan times, when the principle that poor relief should never be set at such a level as to be preferable to work was already well-established. The strictures about one-parent families are also antique. Arguments about dependency are not to be dismissed, but they must always, surely, be secondary to the recognition that unemployment, dislocation and critical damage come first and that to ask the victims to put these things right is profoundly wrong-headed.

The White House spokesman, George Stephanopoulos, says that everybody there when the decision about the bill was taken "was leavened by the sense of the historical moment. Everybody knew how big this was." Such hyperbole for an ill-conceived and ill-spirited law as America has ever given forth!

Fervour of the born again

Rattling the bars



Ian Aitken

ANYONE who listened yesterday to transport secretary Sir George Young, and assorted spokesmen for various bits of our privatised railway system, might easily have reached the conclusion that the Watford rail crash simply couldn't have happened. One by one these people assured the Today programme's John Humphreys that everything was absolutely tickety-boo on the 320 m Coast making made perhaps the whole thing was got up by the press.

But it wasn't, was it? Moreover, as Sir David Steel and a forthright academic expert pointed out, the bit of railway track on which the collision occurred is well known to be falling to bits from lack of investment. Meanwhile, Sir George's department has been scattering bundles of fivers around the City in its desperation to speed privatisation.

The Watford crash, however, has at least managed to smokes Sir George out of his office and into the public eye. Until Thursday he seemed almost invulnerable to press criticism. Even the scandal of the £20 million making made from the resale of Porterbrook, one of three firms which bought out British Rail's fleet of trains, seemed to leave him untainted. It was "the Government" which was blamed, not Sir George.

But this is distinctly odd. After all, Michael Howard criticises the can when things go wrong at the Home Office — as they usually do. So does poor little Pigglet, aka Douglas Hogg, when the Ministry of Fish and Chips makes one of its frequent boo-boos. It is the same with the likes of Portillo, Gumm, Roger (stripsey-suits) Freeman, and all the rest of John Major's dismal crew. So why not the Bicycling Baron?

One can only assume that it is because Sir George is a thoroughly nice chap as well as an Old Etonian gent, and

also possesses immaculate credentials as a "be-kind-to-the-workers" wet. Perhaps his strongest recommendation to everyone but the Redwoodite right is that he was actually sacked by Mrs T, who rightly suspected that he wasn't "one of us".

Yet since reaching the Cabinet — something few people would have predicted a few years ago — Sir George has endeared himself to the Tory right by proving to be not only a passionate advocate of flogging off the railways at bargain-basement prices but also a man willing to cut corners to hurry the sale through before Labour gets back.

Like Ian Lang, another top-drawer ex-wet who is now emerging as a crude union-basher, Sir George has been falling over himself to shed his leftist image.

So let us pull no punches with Sir George. Forget the bicycle clips and the flat 'at; he's just another born again rightwinger.

THE Gallup poll's discovery that Brian Mawhinney's poster campaign — "New Labour, New Danger" — is a flop will be music to the ears of the Tory chairman's many Central Office critics. Especially pleased will be those Tories who opposed the implicit admission that Tony Blair really had managed to change his party.

These traditionalists preferred to stick with the line that New Labour was a fraud, arguing that Blair's party would revert to type once the election was over. Clare Short's latest outburst, in which she denounced the whole image of New Labour as "a lie", clearly reinforces these cases.

So perhaps John Major's set piece conference speech in October will after all include a glorious anagram which seemed likely to be ditched because of the Mawhinney line. For the Central Office gurus have spotted that an anagram of "Tony Blair MP" is "Tim Tory, Plan B".

MY Diary colleague Matthew Norman revealed this week that Lord Torfod, the libDem whip in the Upper House, has been invited by Messrs Baines & Peascoe to subscribe to their "World Book Of Torfods", but that they addressed their communication to "Mister" Torfod. Now I have received a similar notice inviting me to subscribe to the "World Book Of Aitkens", a volume in which, I am advised, I figure. The circular is addressed to a Mr F. Aitken.

Smallweed



HERMITS are making a comeback. Increasing numbers are registering. It is reported, and the Roman Catholic Church has recently had to devise a new canon law in

response to the trend. One of those registered is the generally-tusked critic Sister Wendy Beckett, who will one day be known as Britain's first TV hermit. There was, I remember, a burst of applications for hermit status a few years ago, but they were people trying to dodge the poll tax.

The new breed, it appears, is for keeps. Reports of a hermit explosion seem to refer to religious hermits only, though there is no obvious reason why you should not have lay hermits too, or atheist hermits even brooding in deserts on the non-existence of God.

But religion had hermits first. Some were anchorites, whose cells were linked with a nearby church, while others were eremites, who lived in deserts and preferred not

to deal with anyone. From anchorite practices (I hope I have got the logistics right) developed the practice of hermits associating in groups, which gives us cenobites, and practitioners of idiosyncratic monasticism, from the Greek *idios* meaning particular and *rhymos* meaning discipline. From these movements evolved monasticism proper (or in some famous cases, improper).

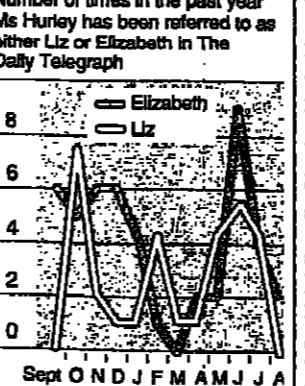
In Smallweed's view, the old distinction could well be applied to present-day hermits, too. Eremites would be those truly in retreat. Anchorites would be hermits with cell phones. I live in hope that the life of the eremite may one day come to appeal to Julie Burchill. A A Gill of the Sunday Times, the racing exhibitionist John McCrick, and other notorious narcissists.

THE Labour Party is having one of its rows. A Stalin-visioned piercing-eyed figure marches towards the cameras. He is bearded. He is Jeremy Corbyn (Islington North). It is always Jeremy Corbyn: no eremite he. What has he got that other dissidents haven't, apart from a brother who is an ace weather forecaster? Are viewers aware that when Corbyn stood for the Shadow Cabinet he garnered only 37 votes? On the other hand, Ken Livingstone polled no votes at all. He didn't stand, knowing the kind of vote he'd have got if he had. That Pete Mandelson, come to think of it, didn't stand either.

HIGH on my list of hermits likely to register later this year is the actress Liz Elizabeth Hurley. Remember the

flurry of stories that she was joining the Catholic Church? A fun-lined cell in some outlying part of Belgravia seems her likely destination. The one thing holding her back, Smallweed is told, is the harm it would do to the Daily Telegraph, which depends so heavily on her for giving the paper a few lines of fluff. Some say its attention has waned since Charles Moore succeeded Max Hastings as editor, but the only change I can see this year is a preference for saying Elizabeth rather than Liz. Certainly her picture, captioned Elizabeth, appeared in the Peterborough gossip column twice in the past two weeks. I asked my statisticians to plot the incidence of Hurley-fixation in the newspaper over the past 12 months. The results are at Figure 2. Note the dip at the end of the January and the

What's her name?



recrudescence which coincided with the spring.

THE Radio Authority, it was not very widely reported this week, has ordered the withdrawal of a commercial for Ford

vans after complaints from organisations representing schizophrenics.

In the advertisement, made by Ogilvy & Mather, the comedian Albert Slayton was saddled with the statement: "You know, sometimes I think I'm schizophrenic. Yes, I do. Half of me wants a big van like the Transit, with its famed reliability and durability. Yet the other half of me wants a smaller, more compact van with the same attributes." Protestors complained that these maundering mistakes linked schizophrenia with the separate condition of split personality, thus contributing to the stigma endured by sufferers.

Is there any chance, I wonder, that the spirit of this ruling may begin to affect all those across the media who constantly spray this term about without any apparent attempt

to understand what it means? As in, for instance: "Gathering together Charles Vidor's Gilda, Orson Welles's The Lady From Shanghai, Orson's Record Of A Tenement Gentleman and Roberto Rossellini's Germany Year Zero among others, one can infer the schizophrenic of the highly charged post-war days." (Independent, on the Edinburgh Festival.) "It has completely transformed what was always a strangely schizophrenic building, not entirely for the better." (Architectural essay, Sunday Times.) "But he was curiously schizophrenic. I knew him for 40 years. He was very good to me and exceedingly cruel." (Malcolm Williamson on Benjamin Britten.) These are purely random recent examples. Everyone does it. Please stop.

Back
This is ready for fighting
brawl as you can get it
a nasty bit of America
come here RICHARD

Please

Herbal tea and pythons with Ossie

SUSANNAH HANDLEY on the last year in the life of murdered fashion designer Ossie Clark

the company of someone so fearlessly honest. He was a throwback to a time when it meant something to read books and be cultured, to bother to recite a poem or to describe how ancient Egyptians would make false eyelashes from flies' legs.

At first I felt wary of meeting him — never confront your heroes. Within minutes, I was under his spell.

The astonishing thing about talking with Ossie was that he remembered everyone's name, what they sounded like — and what they wore. He spoke vividly of his childhood. At technical school, he met the first of his many inspiring art teachers — Roy Thomas. Roy was mad about fashion and nurtured Ossie's interest in women's clothing and the ballet. The intention at the school was to turn out machine-turners and pupils had to make their final choice at 13. Ossie chose the building trade, "quite simply," he said, "because the engineering master was a sodder."

Roy pulled some strings and Ossie was allowed Saturday classes at Warrington Art School until his headmaster found out. His teacher there wore the first pair of square-toed shoes he had ever seen — in turquoise and from Paris. Just outside, he remembered, "and in comparison with the shoes which were in the shops in Manchester, it was the difference between an orchid and a dandelion."

Ossie conversations were

FIRST met Ossie Clark a year ago when I went to his flat to look at a python snakeskin coat he had made for Brit Eiland in the sixties. Downstairs, Bob Dylan's Highway 61 still played and in Ossie's small sitting room a poster of Bob Marley smoking a heroic spliff was pinned to the wall. A furious barking came down the stairs to meet me and I saw him holding an angry Jack Russell under his arm. "Just put your hand to his mouth, darling, and it will be all right," he said. I did so with my eyes closed and the dog, Pippin, barked even harder.

It was early in the morning as we sat in his room hung with yellowing relics of better times. He was courteous in a long-lost style. "I always smoke a joint at this time, you don't mind do you?" and "Can I make you some herb tea?"

As we warmed to our subject — the desperate state of British fashion/culture/education/museums — his talent for mimicry took flight. For a moment he became Vivienne Westwood. "Comfort, I think, comfort is the very enemy of fashion," he quoted, before bursting out laughing.

Ossie was a designer's designer. He could think in three dimensions and make a garment that spiralled itself around the body. In the last few months of his life, he found himself being drawn back to where it all really began — to the Royal College of Art, the place where he met David Hockney and a whole new clique of grand bohemians like Patrick Procktor and Peter Blake. I had known of him through the sixties years as a legend. As a teenager in Belfast, my one dream was to acquire one of his dresses.

I got to know him personally much later, when I invited him back to the RCA to take part in an exhibition I was organising of the best of the college's design over the past century. We grew quite close, talking at length about his life and aspirations. He was a man who would come and grab everything — and it was her clothes that were keeping her upright — the next that an Indian army general had said that dancing with women not wearing corsets was like dancing with an unshelled egg.

He was filled with enthusiasms — for a film called *The Women*, which didn't have a man in it, made as a sop to all the actresses who didn't get the Scarlett O'Hara part. Who else but Ossie would have had that Thomas Shearhead had been only five feet tall?

Ossie had no need for money-making and "signed away" his early business interests while rushing through some airport — just like signing an autograph. (After his banker's feet fall?)

Perhaps he was just too attractive for his own good. In the androgynous sixties, he found it hard to decline the many invitations. "It didn't matter if you were a boy or a girl, you could be fancied by either sex and it was quite acceptable to go out with Lionel Hart in his Rolls Royce or have dinner with Hockney and go to Paris and see Madam Arthur and the transvestites," he told me.

It was exhilarating to be in



Ossie Clark... was planning his comeback multi-directional and full of pictures. One moment he would be telling you that Queen Elizabeth I stood for the last 12 days of her life, because she knew that if she lay down they would all come and grab everything — and it was her clothes that were keeping her upright — the next that an Indian army general had said that dancing with women not wearing corsets was like dancing with an unshelled egg.

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Back to bare knuckles

This is reality fighting, as near to a street brawl as you can get in a fenced ring. It's a nasty hit in America and it may soon come here. RICHARD KELLY HEFT reports

PAUL "Polar Bear" Varelas has always been a tough guy who could take a punch. So when he saw the first Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) about two years ago — a "reality" fight where the only prohibitions were against biting and eye-gouging — he thought it looked like a "lot of fun". In his first fight against "a little 230-pounder", Varelas, a martial artist who is 6ft 8in and has a black belt in the kwon do, took 16 straight bare-fisted hits to the head before he responded with a single colossal elbow strike. "One of my stronger attributes has always been how much abuse I can take and keep coming back," he says.

The same comment might be made about ultimate fighting. While politicians have pilloried it as "blood sport" or "human cockfighting" and successfully campaigned to have it banned in state after state, its popularity and profitability continues to rise. Battleground, a subsidiary of General Media, publisher of Penthouse magazine, recently staged its first extreme bouts. The fights, in which kicking, head-butting and choking are permitted — indeed, encouraged — were originally planned for a state-owned arena in New York City. But with state senators howling disapproval, the group found itself scrambling for a site at the last minute.

Promoters had just 36 hours to set-up 500 miles away in

North Carolina. Despite having to give away most of the tickets, the event turned a profit — about 85,000 households put up \$25 each to watch the eight-fight card on pay-per-view television. UFC bouts routinely attract more than 300,000 paying viewers.

But now bare-fisted fighting is facing its biggest challenge. Organisers are running out of places to stage their matches. Most bouts have taken place in states which do not have boxing commissions but in almost every state where "reality" fights (so named because they most closely resemble real street fights) have been held, legislation has been introduced to ban future events. "Soon we are going to be limited to Indian reservations," says Battleground's organiser and TV commentator, John Ferretti, half-joking. "It's just not worth having \$1 million invested in a show and then having to pack and run at the last minute."

If it becomes too difficult, organisers are threatening to move elsewhere. The UFC's last championship, its eighth, was held in Puerto Rico in February and the Battleground's next is booked for an Indian reservation near Montreal. There are plans to stage events in Australia, Argentina — and Britain.

"We think it would go over really well in England," says Ferretti, who plans to recruit British combatants. "There are some really tough guys over there." The UFC has already recruited a British martial arts champion, Marcus

Marriott Lee who was scheduled to appear in a bout last September but was injured in training and was unable to fight. They are now looking for another British fighter.

American bout organisers see Britain as a potentially rich market. UFC claims to have sold more than 100,000 video films of fights in England, several of which have reached the top of the "special interest" video charts. And the organisers are in discussions with British cable companies about transmitting on a pay-per-view basis.

Organisers say they want to legitimise the sport; yet they believe official condemnation has been valuable. "These people have been a great help," says Don Zuckerman, president of Battleground. "Who would have heard of extreme fighting except for them ranting about us?"

Ultimate competitions are held in an octagonal ring surrounded by padded chain-link fencing. There are no rounds, time-outs, or weight classes. The battle rages until one fighter taps out, or the fight is called to an end by the ringside doctor, referee or cornerman. So far the fights have proved to be less dangerous than critics feared. There has yet to be any serious injury and some doctors claim the absence of gloves makes the sport safer — drastically limiting the number of punches a fighter will throw.

"When you pad the hand with a glove, you turn it into a weapon a fighter can use with very little consequence to him-



Bouts in the 'Ultimate Ultimate' fight in Denver, Colorado, with \$150,000 prize money at stake between eight contenders in the fenced-in octagonal ring. PHOTOGRAPH BY MIKE PERSHON

self," says Dr. Joe Estwanik, who has been ringside for two UFC events and "hundreds" of amateur boxing matches. The result is that reality fights produce more superficial abrasions, cuts and swelling, but far fewer long-term brain injuries. While promoters boast no fighter has ever spent a night in hospital, Estwanik believes a tragedy in the sport is inevitable. "I think we will see a death eventually."

While the bouts are undeniably brutal — a term which has been used by both critics and promoters — marketing has magnified much of the danger. Advertisements show the most savage of punches, head-butts and kicks. Blood oozes from cuts and contestants are shown crawling away from victorious opponents on red-stained mats.

"In a strange way, I think they are marketing death," says Elliot Gorn, editor of *A Brief History Of American Sport*. "For example, why do they surround these guys with a cage? The implication is that this thing is so wild and out of control that it has to be contained in a fenced arena — as if there is no telling what could happen if this violence were unleashed."

The language used is similarly aggressive. The smarming referee of the UFC events, himself a former kickboxer, begins matches by pointing to each fighter and barking "You Ready?" then bellowing: "Let's get it oooooommm!" In fact, most fights rarely live up to the violence of the promotion. Many wind up as grappling matches with one fighter seeking dominant positioning in order to place his opponent in a choke or "submission"

hold and force him to tap out. Predictably, the fight crowd is predominantly male, aged 18 to 35, and promotions are marketed to them. The synergy between Penthouse and Battleground is no accident: at extreme fighting's first event, Pet of the Year, Gina La Marco was introduced to the cheering throng between fights clad in only a thong bikini. Subsequently, four other Pets-of-the-Month were introduced, toured the ring, and joined the front row where they were hand-scrubbed and re-made into sideline cheerleaders.

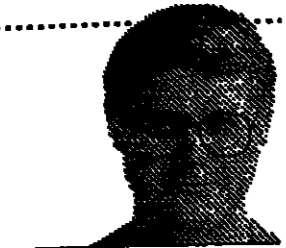
While controversy may have helped fuel growth of the sport, company officials privately admit they are concerned their shows could be dropped by cable networks if political pressure continues to mount. Although they are not sanctioned by any state, the UFC has set up and funded its own sanctioning body, the International Fighting Commission, with representatives of numerous fighting disciplines on its board.

Most fights are monitored by three doctors and combatants are examined before and after bouts. And while blood was allowed to flow freely in the early days, now a deep cut brought on by a kickboxer is now treated as a foul.

Meanwhile, some fighters are beginning to become recognised in their own right. Polar Bear Varelas, who at 26 decided to give up a good job in Silicon Valley as a chip engineer because he "still had a few wild hairs" left, claims he was unable to shop at Christmas because he was mobbed by autograph-seeking fans.

He's never won a competition, but believes, as one of the youngest fighters in the UFC, that he will eventually. "Right now I'm like a big dull axe. But I'm sharpening my edge."

Please don't bother taking me to your strong leader



Martin Kettle

STRONG leadership is one of the most misguided political ambitions of the modern age. Our politicians never seem to learn this lesson. They aspire to be seen as strong leaders, yet strong leadership brings them only grief in the end.

Tony Blair's appeal is attributed by his advisers to his strength as a leader; yet this week he is paying the price of that approach in his dealings with Clare Short. John Major has made a career out of trying to be a strong leader over

Europe; yet many of his worst problems derive from the endless failure of this flawed ambition. What is the attraction of strong leadership, other than the fact that it is the opposite of weak leadership? In Britain, the term has a very particular connotation. A strong leader is a leader like Margaret Thatcher.

A substantial myth has grown up around Thatcher's 11 years in Downing Street. It says that she was a politician who knew exactly what she wanted, stuck to her goals in all circumstances, was proved right, and was popular. Never mind that the myth is a nonsense, her successors try to copy her in the hope of ruling for 11 years themselves.

Yet Mrs Thatcher's form of strong leadership was very particular. It was an idiosyncratic mix of simplicities, shouting and sex appeal. It was not as successful as her admirers pretend, nor as popular — let alone right. It was also a hard act to follow, much

less to emulate, as Neil Kinnock and David Owen were soon to discover.

John Major became popular enough to win an election, not just because he was not Mrs Thatcher, but because he wasn't like her either. He was admired because he didn't pretend to be a strong leader. Later, when he did try, he got into trouble from which he has never fully recovered.

Part of the Tory Party still yearns for Mrs Thatcher, but many more still yearn for the strong leadership which they think she offered. They are hugely mistaken. People don't want strength; they want happiness. If they are very unhappy, as they were in 1979, then a bit of strength seems attractive for a while. But it is a serious error to mistake means for ends.

Like Kinnock before him, and possibly because he is receiving the same advice from the same quarter, Blair thinks he has to be a strong leader too. Yet Blair did not

get where he is today by being a strong leader, but by being a persuasive and plausible one. Fortunately, he is still both those things, but the attempt to be strong — in the Thatcher sense — is causing him nothing but problems and will continue to do so.

Strong leadership is essentially a con-trick, especially in the British context. Mrs Thatcher's version was Churchillian in imagery and motivation, and rested on an attempt to recreate the war and the British empire without the means to sustain either. It played well with the public because it was a dramatic contrast with what had preceded it, because it was brilliantly orchestrated by a populist media, and because British people like being told stories about how great they are.

It was, nevertheless, a huge piece of mutual delusion. It rested on the pretence that Britain could be "great" and "strong" again merely by an act of will or greenpaint.

Strong leadership, Thatcher-style, was actually a sign of profound national weakness, not strength.

It is not surprising that people like it. People like the idea that things can be transformed by a magic wand, a win on the lottery, a strong leader. All these fantasies go together.

The approval of strong leadership is part of a national inability to confront reality.

If strong leadership plays well in focus groups, as I presume it must, then that finding should not be misread. It is a sign that people do not have confidence in politicians, rather than a sign that they do. To try to give them this elixir is like trying to tell them they don't need to get out of bed in the morning. The myth of strong leadership pretends that decisions can be taken and problems solved more easily than they really can. It lays claim to a power over people's lives which politicians do not have, outside a place like Iraq.

I don't mind the Conservatives tying themselves in knots trying to provide strong leadership. But I resent Labour going down that same fruitless path. For Labour to try this tactic is to collude in a fraud. It is an example of the danger that parties find out what people say they want and then try to give it to them; what they should be doing is to give them something and then see whether they want it, a rather different use of public opinion.

FOR strong leadership is not the same thing as good leadership. Nor is it the same thing as the kind of leadership which is increasingly extolled and propounded within the best and most serious management theory. In the end, the theory of strong leadership leads all too easily to the cult of impetuosity. It says that a leader or manager must show he is the boss by acting in a manner which shows he knows his own mind, even if he doesn't.

and in spite of what others may think. The form takes priority over the substance, and there is an inherent temptation to pursue a wrong course of action in the name of consistency — another notable element in the vanity of strong leadership.

From here it is but a small step to the belief that strong leadership requires important decisions be taken with minimal consultation — a view which John Birt holds, among others. After that, the next stage is the belief that strong leaders should be encouraged to be rule-breakers, so important is it to protect their precious leadership skill from costly and time-consuming distractions.

Good businesses are not run like this, and nor should good societies be either. In saying this, I am not saying that Tony Blair is now embarked upon a form of leadership in which he will necessarily take impetuous decisions, abolish checks and balances, and ultimately

turn into a corrupt leader. But I do think it is worth saying both that there is a certain psychological path opening up here, and also that it is exactly what happened in the *locus classicus* of modern British strong leadership, the career of Margaret Thatcher.

Strong leadership is, I think, a denial of the realities of the world, both by the leader and the led. Our world is overwhelmingly a world of complex facts and theories, open systems of decision making, educated workforces, dialogue and compromise. It is not an accident that this is the characteristic civic and management mode of our time.

Complex, flexible and tolerant systems exist because they work. Strong leadership systems do not. Strong leadership, if it actually means anything of substance at all, is reactionary in the modern world and its protagonists are doomed to personal unhappiness and unfulfilled ambitions.

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Life, death and twins

AS with many of your correspondents on abortion (Letters, August 6-8) I take the view that it was wrong to abort one twin. However, what must be challenged is the oversimplistic solution of adoption as a means to resolve this dilemma...

tendency to abuse patient confidentiality, and in doing so quotes the Hippocratic oath. The oath also contains a clause committing doctors not to procure abortions. Can we be surprised that if doctors are so prepared to break one part of the oath, that they will also be prepared to break other parts? (Dr) J Heber, Pishouse Lane, Freshford, Bath BA3.



Stars get in our eyes

YOUR leader (Mars, our cosmic cousin, August 6) oscillates between advising caution over life on Mars and making some unwarranted speculations. It is jumping the gun to say "we have turned a page in a new book" when all we have so far is one piece of data.

Short orders for Clare

IT IS difficult not to read Clare Short's comments (Short plays Blair's 'dark men', August 8) as sour grapes in the context of her public sulk at losing the transport portfolio. If she had intended her comments as constructive advice, she would surely not have chosen the pages of the New Statesman as the means of conveying it.

Labour's obsession with the media is "making us look as if we want power at any price" which certainly does not sound like a piece of the action herself. Perhaps Brian Mahwinney would like to offer her a job in Conservative Central Office. James Grurgeon, 19b Cavendish Road, London N4 1RP.

nothing short-term to cancel the massive impoverishment of our poorest people, which threatens the very basis of our society, and its longer-term plans are unbelievable as long as it refuses to entertain a fairer tax regime such as that put forward by the Liberal Democrats.

Why America strikes terror into our hearts

WHILE I have every sympathy for the families of victims of recent terrorist attacks, I do not see that the US can make any claim for moral leadership of the western world (Master of the universe, August 7). Quite the contrary: why do the Americans see themselves as wearing the white hats?

of its own". White man indeed speaks with forked tongue. William Benton, 128 Allcroft Road, Birmingham 11.

More than a financial lifeline. Supporting British Mountain Rescue. The credit card that supports British Mountain Rescue. 0800 371 678 free. Includes details about the Walker's Card and how to apply.

No frying tonight

GUARDIAN Nicoll (Unhealthy Scots get fat, August 8) is right to say that the Scottish diet can be appalling but it is naive to use fish and chip shops as the only source of unhealthy foods. They are merely responding to consumer demand.

It could be them

DOUGER Burton, of Birmingham City Council, has got the wrong end of the stick when it comes to the Lottery (Letters, August 8). As Lord Gowrie stated, there is plenty of money in the pot.

A Country Diary

MACHYNILETH: Last Sunday I trod for a mile or so in the steps of dear old George Borrow where he walked south across Cardiganshire. He was making for Strata Florida and a poet's grave but it was not a good day. The whole scene, he says, was cheerless, and sullen hills were all around.

Ageing

Fidel Castro has been nearly 40 years and is giving up. BELLA THOMAS on this most original pragmatic of leaders.

Why America strikes terror into our hearts

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Life, death and twins. The Guardian Saturday August 10 1996. The Joanne's Coles Interview. Ageing. Fidel Castro has been nearly 40 years and is giving up. BELLA THOMAS on this most original pragmatic of leaders. Why America strikes terror into our hearts. A Country Diary. It could be them. No frying tonight. Stars get in our eyes. Short orders for Clare. Why America strikes terror into our hearts. Ageing. Fidel Castro has been nearly 40 years and is giving up. BELLA THOMAS on this most original pragmatic of leaders. Why America strikes terror into our hearts. A Country Diary. It could be them. No frying tonight. Stars get in our eyes. Short orders for Clare. Why America strikes terror into our hearts. Ageing. Fidel Castro has been nearly 40 years and is giving up. BELLA THOMAS on this most original pragmatic of leaders.

The twins abortion case has given the anti-contraception campaigners Life a boost. In fact, says their leader Jack Scarisbrick, it was a defining moment

Life, death, and the total denial of sex



The Joanna Coles Interview

Each equipped with a purple umbilical cord, the artificial, actual-size embryos sitting on Professor Scarisbrick's desk are made in Germany, actual size. One day (enlarged), five days, 10 days, one month, four months and, as luck would have it, there's a pair of twins, their development arrested in salmon-pink plastic at precisely five months.

of York) say it begins at 14 days, or life is a process... Ugh. A year later, in 1967, as his daughter celebrated her first birthday, the House of Commons debated David Steel's abortion bill and Scarisbrick found himself uncontrollably angry. "The intellectual vacuity," he cries, eyes glistening with remembered fury. "I'd assumed Parliament was made up of intelligent people. There was old eyebrows Ramsey [the then Archbishop of Canterbury] going on about doctors being confused. And Steel dismissing the child in the womb as merely a dependent. Well unless you're absolutist your position is incoherent." And Scarisbrick was absolutely absolutist.

But if contraception leads to abortion what do people do when they want to have sex, but don't want children? "Then there's STDs," the professor of modern history hurries on, ignoring the interjection. "Sexually transmitted diseases have reached epidemic proportions! We are particularly interested in chlamydia — it lurks dormant and an abortion will trigger it and it causes blocked fallopian tubes which leads to infertility." He sits back, adjusts his gold-rimmed spectacles and smiles at this grim announcement.



Cradling his principles... Professor Scarisbrick and a model of twin embryos in the womb

was told as a boy that girls are slower to arouse than boys. That's what my mum told me. Scarisbrick, Emeritus Professor of History at Warwick University, is 57. So what, I wonder, does he think sex is for? Should it be restricted to procreation only? "Oh sex is a god. We're obsessed with sex. It's unhealthy. My personal opinions on sexual morality are really not..." and he trails

off, his tie swinging forward. And on the back I spot another pair of yellow embroidered feet, the toes pointing downwards as if, having inspected his neck, they are en route for his groin. "A girl has got to be sexually available as soon as she's able," he rattles on, and there is nothing for it but to sit and listen to his vision of today's youth. "If she wants to learn the piano or ballet she can't. She has to get kitted out

because the boy won't. Then she has to take the morning after pill, that's being hawked around the playground..." "Hawked around the playground?" I protest. "I thought you had to get it from a doctor." "Yes, but you don't use it and then you sell it to a friend." "Really?" "Oh yes, they go along to a family planning clinic and say, 'I had sex last night' and

the Family Planning Clinic says, 'Oh you poor dear, you'd better have this.' Then you sell it for a fiver." But, I say again, you are still assuming that girls don't want to have sex. "Well, look, can I carry on with my morality story? Which goes like this. The girl gets pregnant, has an abortion, can't conceive when she eventually wants to and so her husband leaves her." The trouble is, I don't recognise this picture. Thousands

of women prefer abortion to the alternative and thousands of women who have abortions go on to have children. "Can I carry on?" he asks again. "Are families things you just switch on when you want? I'm against the whole concept of family planning. You don't plan to fall in love! A plague on the bloody planners! Haven't we learned with town planners?" At that moment one of Life's staff comes in, waiting a press release for the professor to check. It concerns an Italian girl who had a termination at five months. Only the baby wasn't terminated. It was spotted wriggling and kept alive. Now the woman says it's the best thing that ever happened to her. Though Scarisbrick is overjoyed he is also puzzled that Italy's birth rate is now, at 1.2 children per couple, officially the lowest in Europe. "I don't understand what's happened to Italy," he mutters. Is there a country which he feels has got abortion right? "Ireland," he says after a moment. "There's still a reverence for family life. There's a lot of happiness and joy and laughter in Ireland." But Ireland is in the process of legalising abortion. "Yes," he whispers, "and the last time I was in Dublin I thought it was a terrible place. Sleazy, sordid beyond words."

'You tell them as soon as they're becoming sexually active. You tell them that it's a jungle out there'

Because they're legalising abortion? "Yes. At the centre of it all is abortionism. I fundamentally believe it's the root of the problems, the violence at the heart of our culture. If you get that right lots of other things fall into place." It is impossible to argue with such fundamentalism. But what does he say to the parents of disabled children, some of whom declare openly that they wish they had had the option of an abortion? He nods fervently. "Take Down's children. Every parent I've met with a Down's child says they bring out the best in people. Everybody is made better by them. The child will never mug anyone or be mean and beastly. They may be slower at learning but we take such a negative attitude. A Down's child is hunted ruthlessly in the womb." It seems pointless, but I will ask it anyway. Has he ever, even just once, doubted that he might be wrong? He shakes his head. "I hope I don't sound arrogant and smug. Even in the hardest of cases the response of killing can never be the right one. We've had everything at Life — incestuous rape, a 13-year-old, ethnic crisis, a brother threatening to kill his sister because of the stigma she had brought on the family, a father committing suicide, an Indian walking along a rail track through shame. I don't think there's anything we have to learn about the human predicament." Except perhaps that people like having sex.

Ageing rock star of the world revolution

Fidel Castro has been in power for nearly 40 years and shows no sign of giving up. BELLA THOMAS reports on this most enigmatic and pragmatic of leaders as he turns 70

WHEN Fidel Castro came to power in 1959, it was his youth that was of the ironies of fate that is that he should have grown old in office. Turning 70 years of age on Tuesday, as the world's longest-serving head of State but one (after King Hussein of Jordan), he cuts a rather different image: his continuity or his staying power is his most arresting feature these days. As a hangover from the heady days of the sixties, he is not unlike the phenomenon of an ageing rock star.

no signs of a replacement. But Castro faces a dilemma. To change or not to change? Since the fall of the Berlin wall, his generous Soviet sponsors have petered out. Having institutionalised his revolution, the system over which he presides has rigidified and become resistant to change. International commentators have long been placing bets on whether or not he would last the winter (or, more relevantly, the summer, which is gruelling in the Caribbean). But although only minor adjustments have been made, not least the open-armed welcome offered to foreign investors, Castro appears to have defied the odds yet again. The dilemma, however, still stands. The past five years have seen the Cuban leader wrestling with the idea of the market: to let it in or to shut it out? As a result, it has been an acutely ambiguous period. Private restaurants have been allowed, and then banned, and then allowed again — but they must accommodate 12 chairs only; the US dollar has been legalised but the runners on the black market are pursued as the arch-enemies of the revolution; economists are given a little more voice to draw up elaborate ideas, and are then issued with warnings. Castro recognises the need to harness the ingenu-



Bearded one: Castro's charisma has not weakened and he can still stir his listeners

ity and the muscle of the market, but he does not want to be rocked by it. Many Americans criticise the Marxist-Leninist at heart and that, if you believe his pillow talk about open trade, then you have, like so many others, been duped. This, however, misses the point. Like most leaders, Castro's chief ambition is to stay in power; he is enough of a realist to adjust. In many ways he

has lost his revolutionary edge. His rule has been marked by extreme caution and indecision in the past six years, rather than by ideas of transformation. This is perhaps understandable in view of the hostilities with the United States and the raucous criticism from Cuban exiles in Miami. Yet being a consummate politician above all else, he turns these hostilities to his own benefit. It is his position as a stalwart, embattled national-

ist leader of a small island standing up to an aggressive superpower that allows him to preserve his revolutionary image. (And, incidentally, makes his military fatigues a serious statement instead of a curious piece of nostalgia for the heydays of the Sierra Maestra.) His own legendary charisma should not be underestimated as a factor behind his survival. It is not merely his charm or his rhetoric. He possesses an encyclopedic knowledge with which he often engages his audience. He can deliberate on the latest moves in biotechnology, talk for hours with ambassadors on Swiss cheese or debate the fate of factories in northern England with visiting businessmen. His favourite subjects tend to be science and athletics, to which he brings a bizarre moral focus. It is all part of the inflated belief in himself as an Enlightenment figure. That Cuba did so well in the Olympics may well be a measure of his personal enthusiasm for sport — he gave the team a vigorous pep talk before the event which turned into a warning for those thinking of defecting after seeing the glitter of Atlanta.

Another facet of his allure is his penchant for paradox. His ability to shock prevents him from being seen as one of those faceless, dried-up Eastern European leaders. Take the following: at a diplomatic reception in Havana, Castro was overheard talking about Manuel Fraga, a significant figure of the right in Spain — he is the current president of Galicia and General Franco's former information minister. Fraga was the only

Good-bye battery



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Cleese, Idle, Jones, Chapman, Palin, Gilliam... what made this team unique? Twenty-one years on from Monty Python And The Holy Grail, TERRY JONES (above) looks back with affection, while today's comics consider their influence



On the trail of the Holy Grail... 'Python was collaborative, anarchic in the true sense. What were we trying to achieve? Silliness' — Terry Jones

Something completely different

IT WAS 1968, we had got together as a team and started writing sketches for a BBC series. All we needed was a name. A Horse, A Spoon And A Basin was a runner for a while, but it wasn't quite right. My personal favourite was The Road Elevating Moment, which arose from Graham Chapman's fevered brain. Mike Palin suggested something along the lines of Elsie Parritt's Flying Circus, named after the woman who played the piano at Southwold Women's Guild. We finally decided on Sun, Wicket, Buzzard, Stubble and Boot.

the parrot sketch — so you couldn't actually tell who had written what. Eric always wrote by himself. Wink, Nudge Nudge was typical Eric. There was also a split about the form we thought the programme should take. The Cambridge team wanted a simple sketch show. The Oxford team wanted it to have a shape that would make it different. This elusive shape came to me one day after I'd watched a cartoon by Terry Gilliam in which one thing merged into another. We were also great admirers of the Goons, who showed us that we had been thinking in clichés. That sketches could start out one way and end up in a totally different, illogical place. I suppose we tried to exploit TV like the Goons did radio.

the third they even wanted to see the scripts. It was a logical progression for us to make films like the Holy Grail. The trouble with TV is that you can't perform and be behind the camera at the same time. But we realised that to protect our material we'd have to direct. Recently, when I was making a documentary series about the Crusades it struck me how much the ancient chroniclers nicked from Python. We were filming in northern Syria when we discovered that in the 11th century one of the Crusader kings tried to impress on another leader how tough his men were by getting them to jump from the top of the castle. Naturally, they all killed themselves. Pure Python.

Python in perspective

STUART LEE
Monty Python was the promise of fitness, post-war, surrealism, Goons-type humour fulfilled on TV. They were important in a similar way to punk. Not many people copied them, but they opened up the possibilities. They abandoned punchlines, didn't satirise specific figures and used techniques from other artforms like Buñuel's films. There are only about four minutes in every episode which are less than terrible, but even when it doesn't work it is really admirable. They were hated at the time, the BBC never scheduled them properly, but now they are really proud of them. I don't think the programmes would get made today.

There's a space in comedy now for people who are not that funny but are different and clever and it's PC to like them. Monty Python were the first to start this trend. But I do really like the Ministry of Funny Walks sketch because of its sheer absurdity. I'm a major John Cleese fan — his standards are impeccable and I think A Fish Called Wanda was the best British comedy in 15 years.

LYNN FERGUSON
Monty Python opened up the sketch show format to include absurd, probably drug-induced things like knights and dragons. One of my favourites is Robin Hood stealing lupins — very bizarre. Everyone who was into evil, satanic music loved Monty Python. They used TV for comedy in a new way. What Dennis Potter did for drama on TV, Monty Python did for comedy, at a time when everyone else was going along the Morecombe & Wise road. Most people aren't clever enough to get away with "intellectual" comedy. They were apolitical, going for pure humour, with no subtext. They were funny first and clever afterwards. Everyone loves the Parrot sketch. You keep thinking they did this brilliant sketch and then you remember oh shit, they did that as well. It's a bit like that with Bob Dylan.

MARK THOMAS
Monty Python were very important as they were the first to do what we now call "jokes", but rather, routines which were abstract. My favourite of the Python team was Eric Idle — it was obvious he wasn't a patrician who viewed comedy as an artform. I enjoyed the graphics they used with the sketches, as they acted as a visual extension of their comedy style. The main appeal of their humour was that it was childish, just plain silly.

RHONA CAMERON
They were the first people to do an intellectual piss-take of British standards. By attacking middle-class uprightness which we're all subject to, they also took the piss out of themselves. Chris Morris is the best contemporary solution to what they

Troubles at mill

Fiachra Gibbons

THE TROUBLES are the best thing that ever happened to Belfast. I remember someone saying in the seventies, only half-jokingly. And they were — if you needed to blow up your car for the insurance or were enough to subject for a dodgy drama. You couldn't throw a stone without hitting a film crew or a hot-shot correspondent. The city had the glamour of danger, it was up there on the world headlines with Jerusalem and Geneva — not bad for a town that's basically Barnsley with worse weather.

Then came the ceasefire — cue tons of tourist puffery about how the bigoted beasts of yore were actually quaint and quite charming really. What it lacks, though, is that authentic, dry-as-ground-glass Belfast humour.

Ulster and humour have always had an uncomfortable relationship. It's the first thing that goes after the drinks cabinet when you are born again. Belfast has more fundamentalists than the Bible Belt, and liberals can take themselves off to Tehran if they don't like it.

Humour has also been the biggest TV taboo of the Troubles. The BBC hasn't had the balls for it. It's hip-boeing out of the bunker now, but this is soft, ceasefire, government-information-form film humour.

Safe And Sound has a Van Morrison theme tune. Like A Time For Peace, the government ad that ran interminably during the ceasefire imploring the populace to behave themselves and which probably drove them back to the barricades. The ad had an RUC man patting the head of a wee croppie boy he'd have batedon before (if he hadn't bit him first), flowers blooming out of tank traps and murdered police officers leaping out of the grave to caulk dance with their killers. All very laudable but cloud cuckoo land.

You get the feeling that poor Tim Prager, who for an off-the-shelf scriptwriter has done a really good job, has been saddled with a task that does have something. Some very good actors have created half-believable characters — what every sitcom must have if it is to survive its scripts.

Sean McGinley (recently

Reviews

PROMS
Mikhail Pletnev/
Russian N O
Albert Hall/ Radio 3

THE ONWARD march of globalisation affects musical style just like everything else, but a Russian orchestra in full cry is still a distinctive and thrilling experience. Mikhail Pletnev's Russian National Orchestra lives up to its name by producing the kind of sound that used to be heard only through the crackles of old Melody recordings — physical rather than refined string playing, a big fruity horn sound, a thicker toned oboe and a more sour trumpet than we are used to. In the right music there is nothing to match it.

Three short orchestral rarities by Lyadov, a younger contemporary of Rimsky, revealed the refinement and discipline of an orchestra which is only six years old. Lyadov is a restrained minimalist whose talent is for colour rather than development. He lacks either Stravinsky's feel for action and rhythm or Scriabin's instinct for total danger, but the angu-

lar Babe-Yaga, the shimmering Enchanted Lake and the delicate obsessiveness of Kikimora were good showcases of both composer and orchestra.

Mosses's clarinet concerto probably ensures the packed hall, and Michael Collins delivered a supremely fluent account. The chief interest in his performance was the use of the earthy-sounding bass clarinet for which a distinct actuality wrote both the concerto and his earlier quintet.

But the big test and chief thrill of hearing a Russian orchestra is in a major national piece. Pletnev's programme culminated with Shostakovich's from-dark-into-light 10th symphony of 1968. Though it emerges with the massive circumspicion of the lower strings, this performance made one unusually conscious that the 10th's symphonic struggle is driven by the wind players, in particular the solo horn and the woodwinds. As in so many Shostakovich symphonies of the 1960s, the unresolved tensions seem embodied in the constant return to the stark, beautiful, piercing piccolo and the soothing flute. The way the Russians played this was riveting and richly applauded.

Martin Kettle

THEATRE
Murder In The Cathedral
Almeida, London

THIS is a strange occasion: a production in Romanian of TS Eliot's 1935 verse-drama played by a new company called Art-Inter Odeon. When one learns that it was formed from the relics of the oppressed Odeon Theatre Bucharest, that it is homeless, struggling and heavily involved with a Romanian orphanage, one desperately wants it to succeed. And one can truthfully say that this production by Mihai Maniutiu shows a powerful theatrical imagination. How well it serves Eliot's intention is more open to debate. Eliot's play presents problems in any language. It shows Thomas Becket returning from France in 1170, confronting the temptations of a martyrdom, which he finally achieves through a brutal stabbing justified by its perpetrators on the grounds of political expediency. But, dramatically, there is little development. Becket returns from exile aware of his im-

BARRY ADAMSON

Oedipus Schmoedipus

Q (45)
"A wonderfully assured and cleverly experimental album"

Time Out
"(his) ability to create true ambience, fuelled by dusty soundtracks and killing jokes, is keener than ever"

The Guardian
"his music has less in common with DJ-drones... and more with the work of Burroughs or Jean Luc Godard"

NME (740)
"One, sexy shenanigan after another"

Guardian Guide (Album of the Week)
"one mother of a record"

The Face
"Adamson's time has come"

New album Oedipus Schmoedipus out now

Name check it out

Radio

Lyn Gardner
YOU CAN "Keep in tune with Classic FM". Radio 2 is "Always at your service, throughout the night and day". On Talk Radio you can stay in touch with "the issues of the day, the opinions that count, the advice that matters". There appears to be an inverse correlation between the number of jingles and name checks that a radio station

plays, and the size of its listenership. The rarity of the simple announcement "This is Radio 4" is born of the certainty that listeners will know they are listening to the real thing. Many of the newer commercial stations approach jingles and name checks with all the finesse of an axe station idea in a hurry. The Viva jingle even begins with what sounds like machine-gun fire as if it's keen to mow down the last remaining listeners it has left. Some go so far beyond the minimum requirements for station identification, that the name check jingles become like the musings of an amnesiac who has been told his name but doesn't quite believe it.

Robbie Vincent plays that just after he has cut off some poor, mid-mannered soul who dares to disagree with him. Such a great sense of irony. LBC's "As much a part of London as the River Thames" falls into the dubious statement category. Why not "as much a part of London as beggars in the Strand"? There are plenty of other offenders. Talk Radio's "great talk all the time" is economical with the truth. It's great talk about 20 per cent of the time, mind-numbing insanity 80 per cent of the time. But that's the nature of phone-ins.

Edinburgh Festival & Fringe Information

By phone and fax
● Daily Diary of Events
● Stop Press details
● Travel & Parking
0891 333 112
Call our Edinburgh office, 40th Floor of the Balmoral Hotel, 100 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 2JN
Festival
© The Guardian

In between Tanya Tucker moaning for her man and adverts for line dancing, Country Station announces itself with such monotonous regularity that you begin to think it protests too much. Still you can't entirely condemn a station that boasts a travel news presenter who can make the Hangar Lane gyrovatory system sound like a deviant sexual act. She should be put in charge of jingles immediately.

LBC is another station in the throes of an identity crisis, constantly repeating its name as if in need of reassurance. "LBC is back, new for 36. Tell us the things we are great at and where we need to get better. Call the LBC listener line. We listen to you, because you listen to us." I just love the way

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Sir Frank Whittle

Revolutionary idea that took time to take off

Sir Frank Whittle, who has died aged 88, was an engineering genius frustrated by official disinterest and political manipulation, yet finally triumphant. He is known throughout the world as the inventor of the turbojet engine, which he patented in 1930; as the pioneer of high-flow compressors; and as the holder of first patents on the later turbofan and bypass jet engines. Whittle-based engines transformed aviation and have powered all major aircraft since the 1950s.

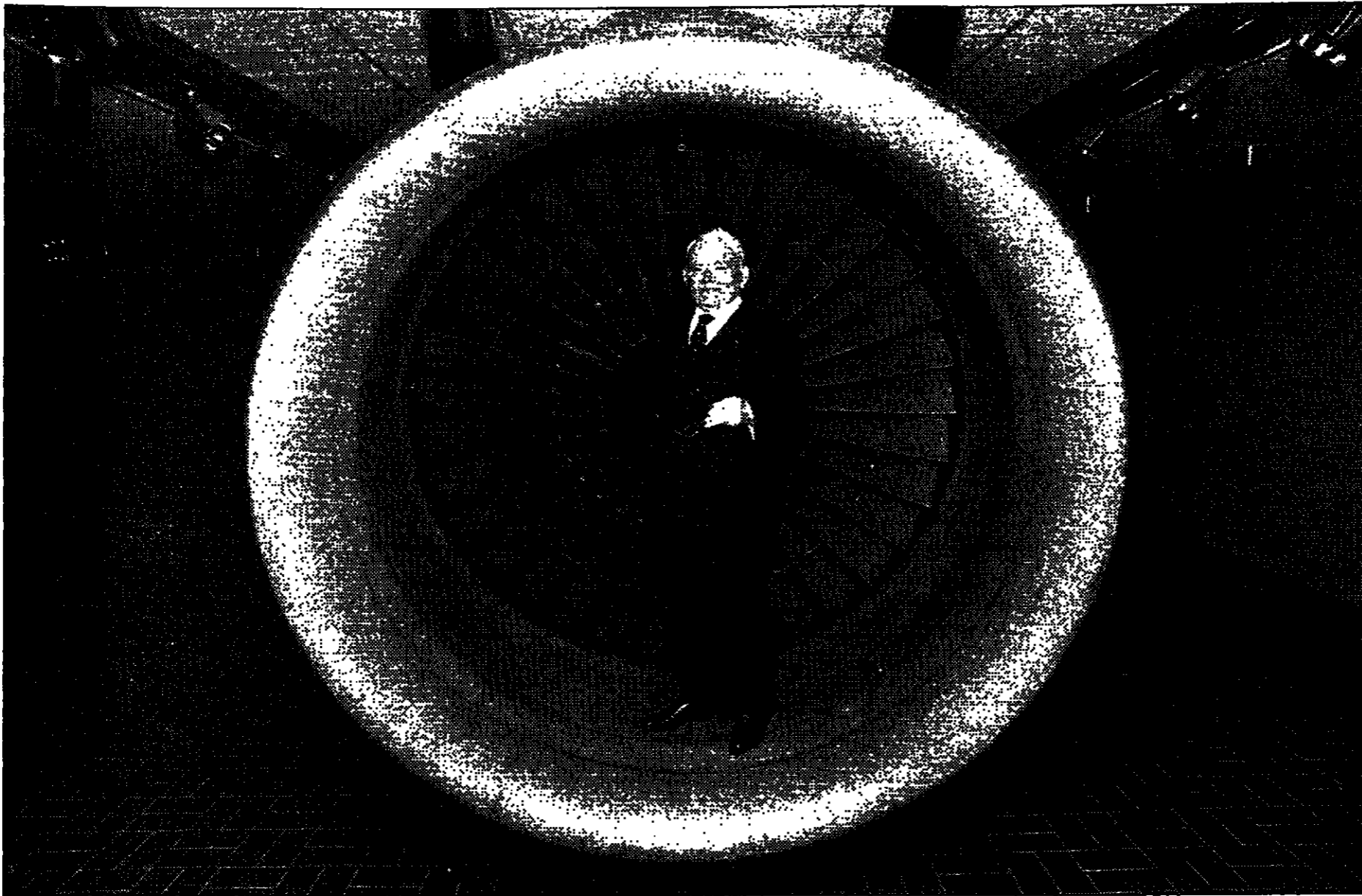
He is less well known as the first RAF fighter pilot cadet to perform a bunt in his graduation display. (A bunt is the first half of an downward loop, with the plane nose down and round, ending up inverted at the bottom, where rolling out becomes possible. The manoeuvre is uncomfortable and can be dicey — especially when carried out from 1,500 feet down to near-ground-level as performed in a Siskin flown by Cadet Whittle in July 1928).

Whittle, whose life was fought initially against personal and physical disadvantages, and then against the apathetic malaise of industry and government in the 1930s, was seldom content to be anything other than first. At 15, he was rejected as an RAF apprentice as too small. He was then only five feet tall and rather skinny. With much exercising he put on a few inches, tried again and beat the system, entering Cranwell in 1923. Leap-frogging to officer status, flying training, test piloting, development work, an instructor's course, and the RAF engineering school at Henley, his obvious gifts were recognised by the Air Ministry. He was sent to Cambridge University Air Squadron where, on the RAF "E" Course at Peterhouse — but thinking most of the time about jet design — he took a first in the subject. He was then only 17 years old, and his success was "rather surprising" because he had done so little work.

From 1929 he had expounded the potential of the turbojet in high-speed and high-altitude flight. The Air Ministry listened without enthusiasm, repeatedly declaring that although in theory the jet engine was sound, the required high-temperature alloys were not available and, for practical purposes, the idea was largely pie in the sky. There was neither government nor industrial interest in Whittle's 1930 patent and, until 1936, no financial support for development.

By this time parallel developments were secretly underway in Nazi Germany. In the absence of "official" reports of this German research the British Government remained apathetic, even though rumours of German jet engine and rocket research circulated on the international scientific grapevine. The RAF had the ready ear of a scientist, but the ready ear of a scientist was not the ready ear of a politician.

Whittle's development programme. Worse, the Air Ministry chose Dr W S Farren — deputy head of aeronautical science at Cambridge — as their "independent" consultant. Farren, who eventually became deputy director of research at the Air Ministry, was outspokenly hostile toward Whittle's ideas. Backed only by RAF encouragement, Whittle and his team embarked on a complex development programme, well beyond their means. His position as a serving officer made life difficult, as the Air Ministry believed it wrong to employ him in activities which would prejudice his availability to the RAF.



The power and the glory... Sir Frank inside the intake of a Rolls-Royce engine. To his despair, the company was handed his life's work by the Air Ministry

modernisation programme involving the Hurricane and the Spitfire and, in retrospect, failure to grasp the importance of the jet engine seems strangely remiss. Whittle, by this time on a postgraduate fellowship at Peterhouse, was close to despair. Out of the blue, two retired pilots, R D Williams (whom Whittle had known at Cranwell) and J C B Tinning, plus M L Branson (a pilot-engineer with connections to the investment firm Falk and Partners) offered to join forces in a development company with Whittle at its head. Branson produced an enthusiastic report, and an agreement proposing the establishment of Power Jets Ltd on private capital was sent to the Air Ministry. To safeguard the ministry (which had automatic Crown-free use of the patents) and the interests of the RAF, the president of the Air Council became a signatory. Whittle had to surrender all his patents to the company, was appointed honorary chief engineer and designer, but was required to spend no more than six hours a week on the firm's work.

There was no offer of financial help from the ministry. Nevertheless, encouraged by his Cambridge tutor, Professor Roy Lubbock, and by the head of aeronautical sciences,

Melville Jones, both of whom believed that the time was right for jet development. Whittle launched the company on a shoestring. He had married in Dorothy May Lee in 1930 and now had two sons. Junior RAF officers then received no marriage allowances and in 1935, through lack of money and Air Ministry backing, Whittle had been forced to allow his original patent to lapse. However, he had filed new ones relating to compressors and the turbofan (the bypass jet), and had started negotiations with British Thomson Houston (BTH) for a contract to manufacture a test engine.

His battles against technical problems, lack of money, lack of Government interest and Air Ministry ambivalence are legendary. Internal politics and industrial opposition to the existence of Power Jets Ltd as a competitor, soured

With jet engines obviously heading for success, the Air Ministry came under heavy pressure from the British aircraft industry — which hitherto had done nothing to help — to take over future production from Whittle. In spite of having several contracts for engine production in hand, Power Jets Ltd was ordered to hand over all production work to the established aero engine industry.

Whittle argued that they were ill-prepared for an entirely new technology. Later delays showed he was right but his plea was in vain and Power Jets Ltd was restricted to research work. Whittle resigned and his health broke down. His life's work became the property, under Crown use, of Rolls-Royce and Armstrong-Siddeley in Britain, and the major manufacturers of the United States. Whittle's role became that of consultant. That he was later awarded £100,000 in compensation, a large sum in the 1940s, seems an inadequate recompense for the creation of a vast new hi-tech industry.

Had Whittle been supported in the mid-1930s, when the essential special alloys became available, Britain could have entered the war with a huge technological lead in aircraft performance. In the event, the first service jet aircraft flew in Germany. Britain ended the war with only the Meteor, and this in limited service. Fortunately, German jet engines were highly unreliable and were also starved of development resources. Whittle's disappointments were not over. His third engine design, taken over by Rolls-Royce in 1943 after prolonged delays, emerged as the

career, as academic, consultant and inventor, first in Britain with the oil companies (the Whittle drill), and, from 1976, in the US. In America he married his second wife, Hazel S Hall, and became Navair Research Professor at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis. Later, he wrote a definitive textbook on gas-turbine design, which reveals more clearly than his early autobiography (*Jet*, 1963) his innate mathematical understanding of the complex processes, as well as his powerful gift for engineering design. Engineering and a strict Wesleyan tradition were major parts of his upbringing in Coventry, where his father, Moses Whittle, was a foreman in a machine-tool factory. He was also a prolific inventor, unsuccessful because of his lack of formal education. Whittle claimed that when he began his own education at Earlston Council School he was "a street urchin six days of the week, and a carefully washed and dressed little boy on Sundays". During the first world war his father bought a small engineering business and Frank won a scholarship to Leamington College. That he spent much of his time studying steam turbine and

other engine designs in the library, rather than doing homework, probably shaped his future. His life was always a struggle, yet he was never embittered, merely direct and outspoken. In his later life he jettied around the world with undiminished vigour. There were many late satisfactions, the Order of Merit, for example, and honours and doctorates. Two were special: crossing the Atlantic aboard Concorde at a speed that, 30 years earlier, he had predicted as possible. And being flown to Hong Kong in 1966 for an 80th birthday celebration by his son Ian, a senior captain with Cathay Pacific. They flew in a single hop after the Furnborough Air Show, with Whittle beside his son as they made the final (and unusually blind) approach to Hong Kong. After they had touched down Frank Whittle said: "Couldn't have done it better myself." Praise indeed.

Anthony Tucker
Glyn Jones, author of *The Jet Age*, writes: Nearly 30 years ago Frank Whittle married an American air stewardess who was to care for him till the end of his life. He turned his back on Britain, where he felt he had been shabbily treated, and immersed himself in the US. He professed not to want to know much about Britain and when my wife and I went to see him to propose a book about him and his engine he was cool to the idea, and cool to some extent to us. We felt we were disturbing his privacy in his remote and pleasant house on the shores of a lake in Maryland. He wished to fight no more, living on a small pension with the days of his socialism long since submerged in American Republican politics.

He returned again in 1977 when he was invited to London to visit Mrs Thatcher at No 10 and to receive the Order of Merit from the Queen at Buckingham Palace. He clearly felt that the Establishment in this country had recanted and we discovered in him a good friend with a genuine sense of humour and a wonderful gift for explaining his ideas lucidly. His father had been a mechanic in Coventry, and he understood that as an engineer he had to explain himself clearly to the policy makers. That they made such a mess of his invention made him an extremely wary person, difficult to know because of the scars he felt so keenly after the war. When we went back to see him in the US again, five years later, the sun had come out. We found his walls checkered with RAF medals and honours and honorary degrees from universities around the world. He took a humble pride in showing us his OM while at the same time leaving us in no doubt about the merit of the award. Whittle was right when the majority of clever people in power were wrong and the price that he paid could never fully be retrieved.

Frank A Whittle, inventor of the jet engine, born June 1, 1907; died August 8, 1996

Compensation of £100,000 seems inadequate reward for creating a hi-tech industry

Not until 1939, with Whittle's third experimental engine showing substantial technical promise, did the Air Ministry step in with a contract allowing Whittle to head Power Jets Ltd and develop a prototype engine for the RAF. The result was the famous W.1 flight engine, designed into the single seat experimental fighter aircraft E28/39 — now in the Science Museum, London. The engine that powered E28/39 on its test flights in May 1941 is in the Smithsonian Museum, Washington. Full design details of both were passed to the United States in October 1941.

His life was always a struggle, yet he was never embittered, merely direct and outspoken

Welland, Power Jets was nationalised as an adviser. In 1946, with jet engine development taking off throughout the world, his company was deprived of all rights to design and develop engines, and converted into the National Gas Turbine Establishment. Whittle was despatched on lecture tours. Two years later, with the rank of Air Commodore, he was invalided out of the RAF and knighted. He promptly began a second

Herbert Huncke

First of the Beats on a long rough road

HERBERT Huncke, who has died aged 80, was the engaging street hustler and lifelong drug-addict who gave the word "beat" to the Beat Generation and introduced William Burroughs to heroin. For writers like Burroughs and fellow-travellers Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg, Huncke embodied their vision of a star-crossed street angel, homeless, shiftless, perpetually at war with the hypocrites of straight society, and yet possessed of a bedrock freedom and purity that only alienation and harsh experience could provide.

Seldom was a life so lacking in any conventional virtues been so widely celebrated. Huncke — usually referred to by his surname which fortuitously rhymed with "junkie" — was untrustworthy, a thief, con-man and male prostitute who had graduated from Sing Sing and Dannemora prisons. Yet it was these very qualities, and his personal charm, that hypnotised and inspired the native young college graduates and aspiring artists of the Beat Generation and led them to view him as the perfect tour-guide to the underworld meat-racks and dives of 42nd Street.



Guide to the underworld... Herbert Huncke was a perfect escort to the dives of 42nd Street

Go (1983) and as himself in many Ginsberg poems. Huncke was one of those who found the complacent repression and sentimentality of post-war America unbearable and he drifted, via drugs, prostitution, crime and constant travelling to the margins of society. This attitude, cemented by alliances with other outcast groups — particularly jazz musicians — and disseminated in Beat literature resulted in the defecation of all-purpose rebels such as Marlon Brando and James

Dean and in mass-market alternative culture of the 1960s. By his own account Huncke always felt a misfit, at odds with his middle-class family, and became involved with drugs, liquor and homosexual sex at a very young age. In his teens he had started wandering around America, surviving as a petty criminal and rent boy. By 1939 he had found his spiritual home in the red-light district of New York, Times Square. Selling drugs or sex, stealing, staying with friends until

they threw him out and periodically retiring to prison — he served a total of 11 years — Huncke became a notorious figure in street lore. "Huncke was a beautiful kid when he first came to New York", said one associate, "the trouble is, he lost his looks." Maybe, although he developed a characteristic image that lasted many decades — slight, fine-boned and faral, he had melancholy dark eyes. Chain-smoking elegantly, he was courteous and sarcastic and became increasingly renowned as a raconteur.

In 1945 he met William Burroughs who was referred to Huncke's room-mate and was hoping to sell him a sawn-off shotgun. Huncke assumed Burroughs, conservatively dressed in overcoat and hat, was an FBI agent and tried to get rid of him. Despite this their friendship developed and Burroughs was fixing morphine syrettes within days. Through Burroughs Huncke came into contact with Columbia dropout Jack Kerouac and another young writer still at college, Allen Ginsberg, who immortalised him in his 1956 poem *Honk*. It was Kerouac who annexed Huncke's constant use of the word "beat", meaning tired, downtrodden, exhausted, which was used to describe that entire generation of 1950s American writers. Huncke himself had started writing in the 1940s and his later memoirs were praised for their unaffected honesty. *Huncke's Journal* (1965), *Elise*

John and Joey Martinez (1979), *The Evening Sun Turned Crimson* (1980) and *Guilt of Everything* (1981) were reminiscences of Kerouac in their headlong style. Huncke will remain part of literary and even sociological history, having related his lurid experiences to Alfred Kinsey, for *The Kinsey Report*. Known to countless people, from up-town literati to the junkies of Alphabet City and the quasi-bohemians of Europe, his immortality is assured, both in his own words and those of others.

Elizabeth Young
Herbert Huncke, writer, born December 9, 1916; died August 8, 1996
Face to Faith returns next week

Weekend Birthdays

They had to build a special ladies' loo for Elizabeth Butler-Sloss (83 today) when she became the first woman judge on the English court of appeal in 1992; and until a couple of years ago she had to be called "Lord" Justice because the men who'd written the law never imagined a woman could rise to such judicial heights. Now officially Lady Justice, she's still alone among 32 men. She long ago overcame the nepotism charges that followed from her being Attorney-General and Lord Chancellor Michael Havers's little sister, and her work on the appeal court is much respected. A jolly horse-and-dogs no-nonsense bonhomous manner, often tinged with splendid indiscretion, is a front for a shrewd mind and a caring instinct, demonstrated in her much-praised Cleveland child abuse inquiry which resulted in the Children Act. It's even possible, though not likely, that she might become the first



woman law lord — law lady? — but that would mean building yet another loo.

Today's other birthdays: Rosanna Arquette, film actress, 37; Catherine Freeman, filmmaker, 65; Gillian Lynne, scientist, 44; Andrew Miles, professor of epidemiology, University of Westminster, 33; Sarah Raphael, painter, 36.
Tomorrow's birthdays: Sir Bernard Ashley, co-founder, Laura Ashley, 70; Frances Heaton, former director-general, Takeover Panel, 52; The Rt Rev Jim Thompson, Bishop of Bath and Wells, 60.

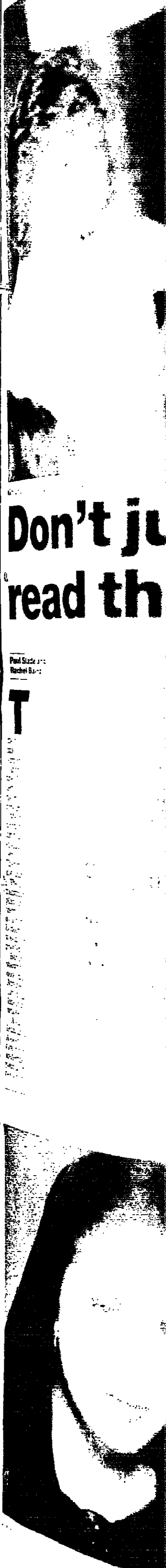
Death Notices

CHAIK, Passantly on August 7th 1996 in St. Elizabeth Hospice, Ipswich, Suffolk. Bessie Marjorie Bloume mother of Catherine and Michael, grandmother of Fergus and Marjorie. Funeral service at St. Mary's Church, Ipswich, on 8th August 1996. Burial in St. Mary's Churchyard. Donations to the Ipswich Hospice. Inquiries to Mrs. Mary Bloume, Church Street, Church Street, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 1UJ.
LESLIE Maryrose OBE (Mrs M) Leslie, nee Sutton (formerly principal of the Brighton and Hove College, wife of George F Leslie for 54 years, died at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, on 8th August 1996. Funeral service will be at St. Mary's Church, Oxford, on 10th August 1996 at 12 noon. Donations to the Nine Arches Hospice, Church Street, Church Street, Oxford, OX1 3PP.
MILLER Diane of 85 Chesterton Road, Cambridge, died suddenly on August 6th 1996. Funeral at Cambridge Crematorium 2 pm August 15th. No flowers.
Births
Shireen/Parvaneh, Helen Stevenson and Richard Pascoe are delighted to announce the birth of Rory Alexander Bennett Pascoe on 30th July. Dad, a brother for Tom.
THOROUGHGOOD/HEWITT to Julia Thorpe and Francis Hewitt, a son, Arthur George Hewitt, on 7th August. A brother for Jack, Frank, George and Ben. With thanks to all who came to our next door neighbour, Gill Davies.
Place your announcement telephone 0171 732 6267. Fax 0171 732 4129.

Doonesbury



BY GARRY TRUDEAU



Don't just read the

Paul Sledge
Rachel B...

T

Money Guardian



Grounded... Angry Laker passengers confront an airport official while stranded at Gatwick awaiting a flight to the US earlier this week

PHOTOGRAPH: GEORGE CRANE

Don't just travel hopefully, read that holiday small print

Paul Slade and Rachel Baird

THE perils of going on holiday were highlighted this week by floods in Spain that killed more than 60 people and by major delays at Gatwick airport.

If they want compensation, the 353 Laker Airlines passengers delayed at Gatwick for 48 hours will have to rely on private travel insurance policies. Meanwhile, anyone who wants to cancel a Spanish holiday following the floods, should read their travel policy very carefully before they do. They may well find they cannot claim for cancellation.

The Gatwick passengers' nightmare started when the plane that was meant to take them to Florida was damaged by a storm. It never reached London and a replacement jet was grounded by mechanical problems.

But unless the delay can be shown to be caused by inadequate maintenance at Laker Airlines, lawyers say compensation claims against the airline or the travel agents are unlikely to succeed.

Ashley Holmes, head of legal affairs at the Consumers' Association, says airline ticket conditions generally undertake only to get you to your destination "within a reasonable time", so a delay

beyond Laker's control would not necessarily breach the contract with passengers. "Travel insurance is always a much better bet than going to law," he says.

In fending off compensation claims, airlines will first rely on their standard conditions of conveyance. One barrister believes that, in effect, the airlines are saying: "We have no obligation to fly you anywhere or do anything, and can charge you anything we like."

Contract terms like this, he adds, would probably be deemed unfair if tested in court, but how many people would be prepared to go to all

the trouble of going to law for what is likely to be a fairly small payment?

A 1990 European directive on package holidays requires tour operators to meet certain standards, but it does not mention compensation for delays.

Travel agents strongly recommend holidaymakers take out travel insurance when booking their trip, partly because they make a tidy profit selling it.

Insurance policies cover delay and also medical treatment required while abroad, loss of property through theft or accident, and legal liability. The delay element of the cover

typically pays out from £20 to £25 for every 10 to 12 hour period you are delayed, to a maximum of about £100.

If you decide to give up and cancel your holiday altogether after a delay of 10 to 12 hours, many policies will let you claim the full cost of the holiday, up to a maximum of between £3,000 and £5,000.

Assuming they have private cover, each Laker passenger affected by last week's delay should be able to claim between £80 and £100. They may need a letter from Laker confirming the length of the delay before they get paid.

You can buy travel insurance

from your travel agent, insurance company, insurance intermediary, bank or building society.

Insurance intermediary Inter Assurance's annual Options policy costs £33 per person and recently featured as a "best buy" in Which?, the Consumers' Association magazine. It offers up to £3,000 if your holiday is cancelled and £10 for every eight hours that your holiday is delayed, up to a maximum of £300.

You may already have cover on your credit card, although this will come into play only if you use the card to buy your holiday.

American Express travel insurance, included as a free extra on its credit and charge cards, offers a £20 payout for every 12 hours you are delayed, to a maximum of £100, plus a cancellation payment of up to £5,000 if you cancel your trip after waiting 12 hours or more.

If NatWest Gold credit card holders are delayed for more than four hours they can claim for "reasonable expenses" of up to £250 per insured person, for costs such as food and accommodation. If the holiday is delayed for 24 hours, they may cancel and claim up to £3,500 per person.

Lunn Poly and Thomas Cook schemes offer £25 for every 10 hours' delay, to a maximum of £200, plus a maximum cancellation payout of £5,000 if you wait for 10 hours.

The Thomas Cook scheme costs £32.95 for two weeks in Europe or £53.50 for two weeks worldwide.

Those cancelling because their holiday destination has been hit by freak weather, such as the floods in Spain, should check their policy carefully.

Mondial Assistance would pay a cancellation claim made because of a flood but insurance company Club Direct says this is a "grey area". One Way Travel Insurance says someone other than the traveller (for example a tour operator) would have to recognise a destination as too dangerous before it would pay for cancellation.

Direct Line would pay for cancellation due to something beyond your control, such as a campsite being washed away. However, it would not pay merely because you did not fancy going somewhere hit by floods.

A worrying survey of 39 foreign hotels by the Consumers' Association might make some people want to cancel. It claims some tour operators are sending holidaymakers to potential deathtraps. Only one of 39 hotels in Turkey and Grand Canaria proved satisfactory in safety terms.

Passenger on BA's case over ruined luggage

Paul Slade

WHEN Judith Thomas tried to claim compensation from British Airways for luggage destroyed on a flight from Marseille to London, the airline disclaimed all responsibility for the flight.

This came as a surprise to Ms Thomas, as she had bought her ticket through BA's Executive Club, the plane was painted in the airline's colours and had been staffed by one of its crew.

Her suitcase was destroyed when it fell off a baggage van on the tarmac at Marseille and was run over. When she came to put in her £300 claim, BA said her flight had been with TAT European Airlines based at Tours in France.

At the time of the flight in question, BA owned 49 per cent of TAT, a deal which allows TAT planes on the London-Marseille route to fly in BA livery. BA has since bought the remaining 51 per cent of the company, a deal which it says should improve its control of TAT's operation.

It was only when Ms

Thomas complained to a BA Executive Club supervisor that the "world's favourite airline" agreed to deal with her claim directly. So far, she has received no compensation as a result of the June 27 flight.

Ms Thomas says: "I think the whole thing's fishy. A flight's either run by British Airways or it isn't. If it isn't, they should say so. If a plane carrying their livery crashed, would BA have tried to disown the flight?"

BA points to a footnote in its timetable explaining the relationship between BA and TAT, and says travel

agents should also make this link clear. But, as far as Ms Thomas was concerned, Flight BA3207V was a straightforward British Airways flight.

BA's David Snelling says any passenger with a similar problem can insist BA deals with it direct. "We've got our name on it, and it's our responsibility." He believes Ms Thomas should get her cheque "in the next few weeks".

If your luggage is lost or damaged on a flight, Mr Snelling explains, fill in a claim form before leaving the airport. These can be

found at the airline's baggage services desk. Someone there should be able to help you fill in the form and put it through the system, Snelling says.

BA has other partnerships deals with Qantas and US Air, covering flights to New Zealand and secondary destinations in America. In these cases, BA handles the first leg of the flight, with passengers transferring to the partner airline at a "hub" airport such as Los Angeles or Pittsburgh.

In these cases, the second plane is marked in the other airline's colours.

Million benefit from merger

Rachel Baird

THE merger of United Friendly and Refuge Assurance announced this week and the continuing fight for control of the £500 million KEPTT fund are good news for small investors.

Some one million owners of Refuge with-profits policies will get a share of the £101 million bonus the company has declared as a result of the merger. The new company to be formed, United Assurance Group, will have around 6.5 million policyholders and a stock market value of around £1.5 billion.

The £101 million Refuge policyholders' bonus is surplus to what the life assurance company needs to meet obligations to policyholders. However, Refuge with-profits policyholders will get their bonus when policies mature.

Its size will depend on what kind of with-profits policy is held. Someone with a 10-year industrial branch endowment (the premiums for which are collected from their home), with a sum assured of £5,000, would get an extra £244 when their policy matures. A man who started paying £300 a year towards his pension in 1986 aged 35 would get an extra £128 a year added to his pension at age 65. But do not rush to take out a with-profits Refuge policy in the hope of getting a share of the £101 million bonus. Only people who took out policies before August 8 1996 are eligible.

With-profits endowment policyholders could realise some of their bonus entitlement now by selling their policy on the second-hand endowment market. But the bonus is only a small fraction of the maturity value of their policy and it would not be worth selling just to realise part of the bonus, says David Beale of second-hand endowment policy trader Beale Doble.

Refuge will write to policyholders with details of its merger and has set up a helpline on 0645-368-369.

United Friendly announced a distribution of surplus funds to policyholders last year, so there is no bonanza now.

Meanwhile, the battle for the destiny of the Kleinwort European Privatisation Investment Trust (KEPTT) heated up this week. Around 10 different fund managers have expressed interest in gaining control of KEPTT, after a hostile bid last week by the TR European Growth Trust.

At present KEPTT's assets are managed by Kleinwort Benson Investment Trust but the current value of KEPTT shares is less than what investors paid for them.

KEPTT's directors have now invited proposals from interested parties regarding the fund's future with a deadline of August 19. It will then decide which proposal is in shareholders' best interests and put it to a shareholders' vote.

Money Guardian is edited by Margaret Hughes



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SCOTTISH WIDOWS

Going flat out to fight the landlord

Jill Papworth

FLAT and house owners with long leases will this autumn get new legal powers to fight unscrupulous landlords when the Housing Act comes into force. But, while welcoming the Act as "going some way to help" tenant victims of rogue freeholders, campaigners for leasehold reform say it does not go far enough to give leaseholders control over the management of their properties. They also fear a scramble among unscrupulous landlords to beat the legislative clock by taking advantage of legal loopholes before the changes become law.

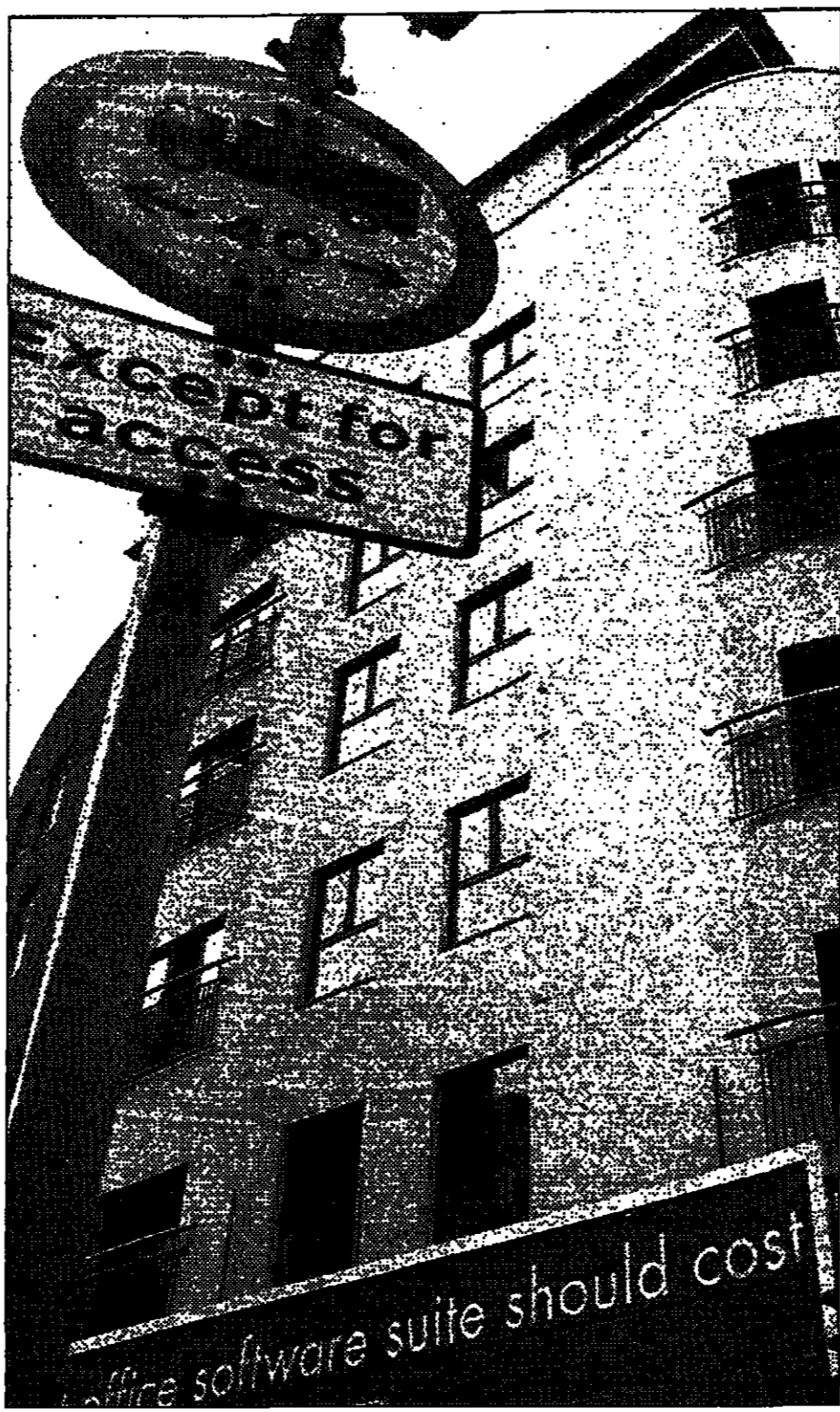
Rogue landlords have intimidated leaseholders into paying inflated service and maintenance charges by issuing forfeiture notices

"I'd say the most important change for leaseholders is the extra protection the Act gives on forfeiture," said Peter Haler, chief executive of LEAS, the Government-funded Leasehold Enfranchisement Advisory Service. Under current law, rogue landlords have been able to intimidate leaseholders into paying inflated service and maintenance charges by issuing notices, threatening to repossess the lease on their property if they do not pay up. "In fact, such notices are not enforceable without a county court order, but a lot of tenants don't realise this and pay up in panic," Mr Haler said. "If they are strong enough to hold out, the landlord very often goes to their mortgage lender and persuades them to pay up on their borrower's behalf, again by

threatening forfeiture. Either way, landlords often get away with extracting the money without ever going to court." The new forfeiture rules, which will, from September 24, make forfeiture a two-stage process. A landlord will not be able to ask a court for a possession order until the sum of money in dispute has been already determined, or agreed as lawfully due by the courts. "This will give the tenant the chance to put their case without being under the duress of forfeiture proceedings and, hopefully, stop landlords threatening possession on spurious demands."

the right to buy at this price. "The problem is that few leaseholders are aware of this right," Mr Haler said. Further changes under the Act should remove the problem of ignorance. The new landlord will have to inform tenants of their rights and the time limits will be extended to four and six months respectively. Other key changes include the effective abolition of "flying freeholds". To be eligible for enfranchisement under the 1993 Leasehold Reform Act, a building had to have a single freehold. Some landlords used this to prevent tenants from buying the freehold by deliberately splitting the freehold, typically transferring the ownership of a ground floor flat to an associated company. The new Act scrapes the single free-

hold requirement. More tenants should also be eligible for enfranchisement, or lease extension, under the new Act, which abolishes the complex and arbitrary "low rent" test for units leased for more than 35 years when granted. A welcome change for an estimated one in three tenants in dispute with their freeholders over excessive service charges or poor management is that they can take their grievance to Leasehold Valuation Tribunals, which can appoint an independent manager to the property. Advice is available from: the Leasehold Enfranchisement Advisory Service 0171-499-3116; Campaign Against Residential Leasehold Abuse 0187-467877 and Leasehold Enfranchisement Association 0171-597-0655.



Charities set to give investments ethical dimension

Nick Pandya

CHARITIES in Britain have an estimated £23 billion in their reserves, much of it invested in the stock market, giving them enormous clout in keeping the companies in which they invest on the straight and narrow. Yet this ethical dimension is not at the forefront of most charities' investment policies. A study by the WM Company, which measures charities' investment performance, showed barely 7 per cent imposing any ethical constraints. Now, the Christian Ethical Investment Group and the Church Commissioners have joined forces to produce a guide book aimed at trustees of charities seeking to formulate an investment policy with an ethical dimension. The guide, Charity Trustees and Investment Ethics, is backed by the Ethical Investment Research Service (EIRIS) which mon-

itors corporate ethics of companies.

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Only 7 per cent put restraints of conscience on investment decisions

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Mortgage jargon continues to puzzle buyers

Lina Saigol

THE good news is that the house market is picking up. The bad news is that buyers are still confused about the process of buying their homes, according to a survey published this week by Barclays Mortgage. Nine in ten buyers are

has lowered its three-year fixed rate mortgage from 6.75 per cent to 6.65 per cent. The one, two, three and five-year fixed rate mortgages will now run until September 1, 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2001. And John Charcol, the independent adviser, has launched a mortgage with a fixed rate of 5.99 per cent until July 1, 1999. A reduced £150 arrangement fee is payable on completion. The Derbyshire Building Society is offering a 6.75 per cent fixed rate mortgage until January 31, 2000. The standard mortgage valuation fee is waived. Borrowers need a minimum 5 per cent deposit. Legal & General has introduced payment holidays and improved lending terms on its

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been increased to 95 per cent for a straight pound-for-pound swap with another lender.

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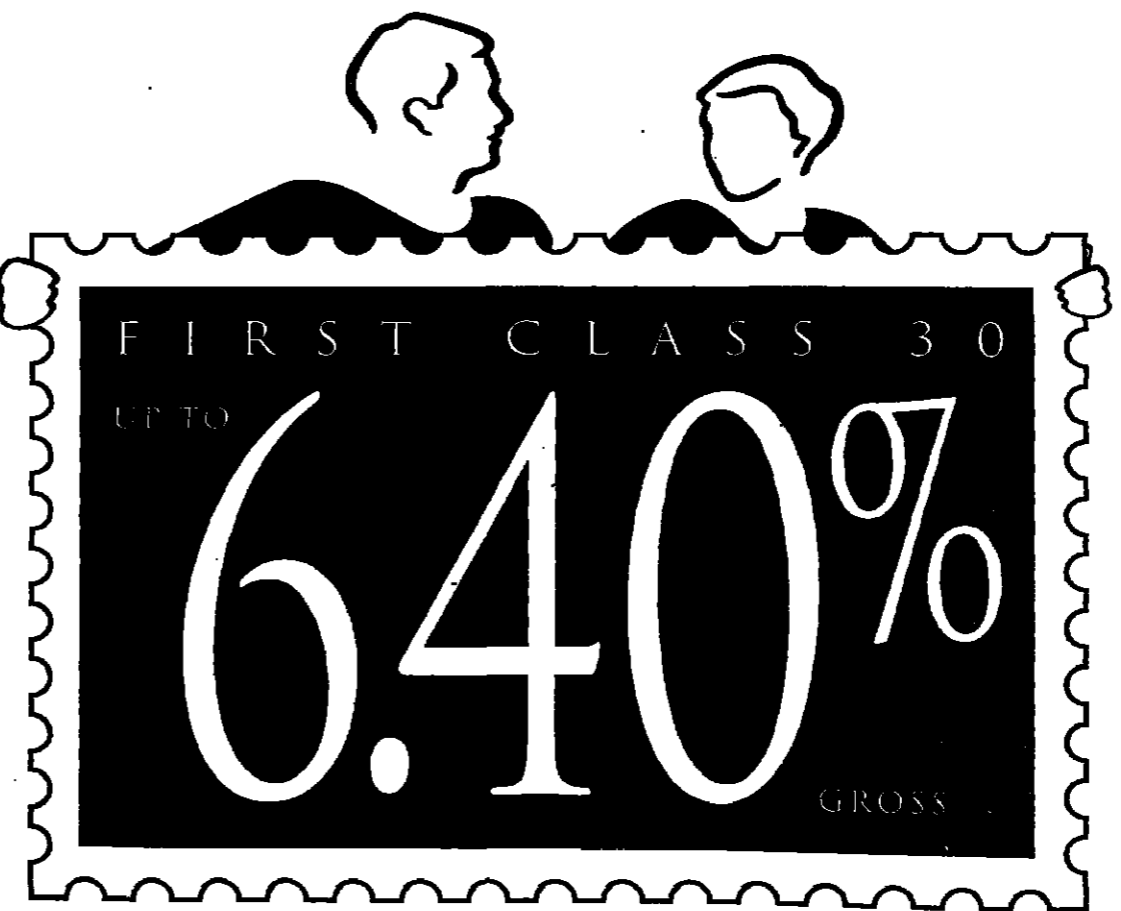
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"We'll exceed your expectations"

Supermarket flotation defies critics • Millions wiped off rivals' market values as institutions sell holdings

Somerfield shares soar thanks to 'bargain' price

Ian King

SOMERFIELD, the cut-price supermarket chain formerly known as Gateway, defied its critics yesterday when shares in the company made their market debut at a healthy premium.

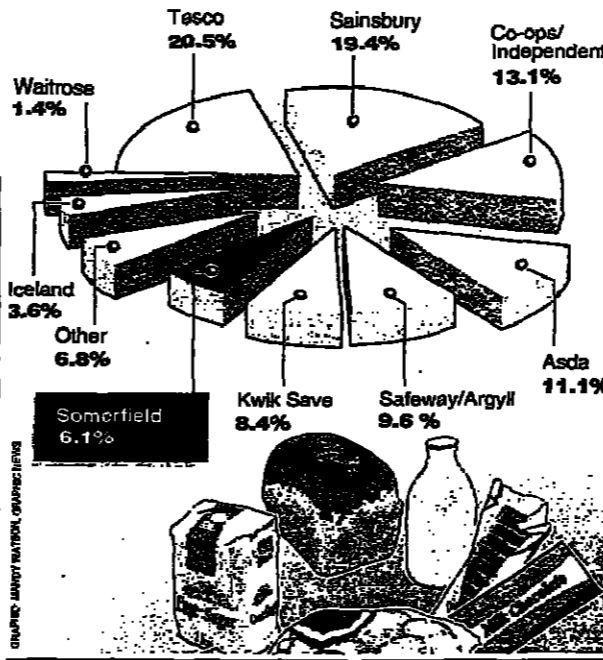
largest supermarket chain, is under threat to have been offered to rivals — including Sainsbury and Tesco — as Kleinwort attempted to prove it was not overvalued. Amid rumours of possible legal action, there was particularly fierce criticism from creditors of Isoco, the company which bought Somerfield in a disastrous £2.1 billion management buy-out in 1989 but which subsequently came close to collapsing under a mountain of debts.

les. Creditors of Isoco are now expected to receive a payout approaching 80 per cent of what they are owed. The run-up to Somerfield's flotation was dogged by a series of crises, in which Kleinwort was forced to reduce the original asking price of between 180p and 190p to 160p, before reducing it further to 145p.

which the group was originally earmarked for sale. Last night, analysts said the issue had succeeded simply because the shares were so low-priced. One said: "It is a fiercely competitive market, and although the stock is so cheap it could struggle to grow profits in the longer term."

Supermarkets' share

Annual trends in packaged grocery market share. Percentage, 1993-95



Iceland, both of which saw millions wiped from their market values as City institutions sold their holdings in order to snap up shares in the pair's cheaper rival.

Notebook

Diplomacy and the Tebbit doctrine



Mark Milner

EUROPE has been complaining this week that, as far as the US is concerned, the long arm of the law is just too long. The issue of extra-territoriality — the claim to impose legal sanctions against foreign companies or individuals for actions committed outside the US, effectively infringing the sovereignty of other states — is a complex and thorny one.

by frequent and realistic discussion. When a politician with such an abrasive reputation opts for such a diplomatic approach, others would do well to take note.

Grocer's tactics

BRINGING Somerfield, Britain's 11th-largest supermarket group, to market has not been an easy process, requiring a couple of price cuts as well as some burning of the midnight oil. Yesterday, however, the shares finally made their trading debut and notched up a decent premium.

Feuding Lotus to sue sacked finance chief

Chris Barrie Business Correspondent

THE bitter feud at the car and engineering group Lotus intensified yesterday when the company said it would sue its former finance director amid allegations that he had misappropriated company property.

owner Romano Artioli. Lotus said a decision on legal action against the other directors would depend on the investigation into its affairs. They are Andrew Walmsley, former director of car operations; Hugh Kemp of engineering operations; Richard Jones of commercial engineering, and company secretary Martin Brostoff.



MORE and more people are using the Internet to make long-distance phone calls, writes Mark Tran in New York. "Voice chat" software enables computer users to call almost anywhere in the world and talk for as long as they like for no more than their Internet access fee — about £13 a month in the US — as Aric Fedida (pictured right) demonstrated yesterday at the annual Macworld Expo in Boston.

Director of firm floating on AIM used false name

Exchange says it cannot act, reports SARAH WHITEBLOOM

A SENIOR director of a company worth £1.25 million from flotation on the Stock Exchange's Alternative Investment Market has routinely used a false name, and lied about his role, Anthony Hussain — who with the chief executive, Robert Gold, controls the controversial publisher London & Edinburgh — has passed himself off with Buckingham Palace, the press and others as Alistair Davenport.

mation using assumed names all the time. Also, Anthony has suffered racial comments about his surname. Mr Hussain's contacts with the Palace result from Tobiasso's controversial planned book to commemorate the Queen's 70th birthday. Under his leadership, Tobiasso solicited firms around the world to pay up to £20,000 for messages of congratulation in the book.

Hardy move gives Names opportunity to limit liability

Pauline Springett

THE restructuring of the Lloyd's of London insurance market gained momentum yesterday when the Hardy business announced its intention to merge its separate insurance operations into what will effectively be a small company.

Thyssen directors face fraud trial over post-unification purchases

Ian Traynor in Bonn

THE latest scandal over west German magnates buying up the east German economy engulfed the Düsseldorf-based Thyssen steel and engineering group yesterday when investigators disclosed that its chairman, Dieter Vogel, was among 10 Thyssen executives facing charges for fraud.

News in brief

Unilever's BSE bill up by £7m The continuing BSE scare has forced food and detergents group Unilever to write off £7 million — in addition to the £15 million written off earlier in the year. Chairman Sir Michael Perry disclosed the ongoing cost of the controversy in announcing a flat set of half-year figures, with pre-tax profits almost unchanged at £1.125 billion. Excluding exceptional charges, operating profit improved by 13 per cent in the first six months of the year. Market conditions in most territories remained "substantially unchanged", Sir Michael said.

Burger chief dies

product, attracting £216 million, with sales of Premium Bonds contributing £96 million net. **Burger chief dies** James McLamore, Burger King Corporation's co-founder, died yesterday of lung cancer. Mr McLamore, aged 70, founded the world's second-largest fast-food chain in 1954, with Dave Edgerton, and served as president or chairman for more than 21 years. "He was not just the co-founder of the company, he was the heart of it," said Robert Lowe, Burger King chief executive. "He took a hamburger, the Whopper, and made it a household name."

BT man extended

BT won an extension of a temporary High Court injunction barring a rival, New World Payphones, from using traditional "K6" phone kiosks. The continuation, until Tuesday, will allow BT to file evidence it hopes will resolve the issue next week. **Vauxhall price rise** Vauxhall is to increase the price of its cars and light commercial vehicles by an average 1.7 per cent from midnight on August 19.

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
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Finance Guardian

City of hope holds its breath

The end of the Troubles brought prosperity to a battered corner of the province. Today's events could tip the balance. But Derry is hoping to stay in business. PETER HETHERINGTON reports



Poised on the brink... The city which was beginning to rebuild stands in fear of the weekend's events
PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN SMITH

THE freshly painted slogan screams out from a gable end in the Bogside below Derry's 17th-century walls: "Nothing Has Changed".

It is yet another ominous reminder that events, running out of control for much of the week, are in danger of turning full circle in the city where the Troubles started — and where, ironically, peace broke out long before the IRA and loyalist paramilitaries' ceasefires almost two years ago.

By evoking memories of a bloody past, when the magnificent old city was devastated by bombing and rioting over a quarter of a century ago, the slogan hideously misrepresents the new Derry. "Things have changed — but it's a painful time for change," says Pat Devine, self-employed joiner and leader of the 17-strong majority nationalist-leaning SDLP group on Derry City Council, which could hold power — but chooses to share an element of control with Unionists.

"We are no model council — simply struggling to find new ways of dealing with old problems... We are not miracle workers," he says. But some think a minor miracle has been worked in Derry. When the Apprentice Boys descend on the city today for their annual parade, the scale of reconstruction, and consequent revival, will be largely obscured by a thick security blanket, which has involved partly closing the historic walls to avoid widespread disorder.

Loyalist marchers, after all, want to celebrate the past, not address the future, while headline Republicans are in no mood for compromise — marching to commemorate another anniversary, internment, against the better judgement of moderate nationalists.

This is a great pity. Because the monumental effort in-

involved in pulling a devastated city back from the brink represents a triumph of co-operation between divided communities over the ever-present forces of darkness in their midst. It also represents an act of faith by a much criticised British government, which, in co-operation with local agencies, has poured hundreds of millions into the reconstruction drive for redevelopment of the centre: building new houses, attracting new industries and creating thousands of jobs.

Derry, in short, has a favoured status the envy of any British city — but then, it has suffered more than most.

At the height of the rioting and bombing in the seventies, 5,300 houses were destroyed or badly damaged, and 130

shops, offices and pubs gutted. Government planners, who took over from a discredited Unionist council, suggested at one stage that the devastation was so extensive that the entire centre would have to be rebuilt.

A relative calm descended on Derry in the late eighties. It began to attract a range of companies, from textiles to high technology, which transformed the local economy — and the city quietly became an international success story.

Like the business community, and an innovative local council which has even brought a £12 million airport to the city, Jim Foster, the senior civil servant in charge of planning a new Derry and attracting industry, is now holding his breath as marchers threaten to blow apart the miracle.

Over the last 12 years he

estimates that £500 million has been invested in the city by the public and private sector. Nine thousand new houses, two thirds of them private, have been built. Unemployment has been halved to 15 per cent in a city where almost 60 per cent of the population, now at over 100,000, is under the age of 30. Employment, at 33,000, is at an all-time high with 5,000 new jobs created in 10 years.

"The feeling until recently is that we were going through the most successful period in the city's history," says Foster. "People were looking forward in a much more confident frame of mind at a real prospect of further success."

For those familiar with the devastation of Derry of the seventies, a drive towards the new city confirms the transformation — sweeping across a new bridge over the Foyle, north of the centre, with the gentle Donegal hills beckoning a few miles away. Past modern industrial and housing estates, plush executive homes and a growing university campus, you soon reach the splendour of the old Georgian terraces running down to the river and a 266-million Foyle-side shopping centre, developed by a Boston-Irish company.

Derry seems to be taking some significant steps towards breaking the old taboos — particularly by developing cross-border institutions and companies transcending the seemingly pitiful line separating Northern Ireland from the rest of the old province of Ulster.

Then came the Drumcree stand-off in July, the riots in Derry and elsewhere, and the worst elements of sectarian bitterness which many thought had been consigned to history.

The fall in confidence is palpable. Take Seagate Technology from California, which is well on the way to completing a £175 million plant making thin film heads for computer disc drives and data storage

equipment. Soon its 800-strong workforce will expand by a further 350, three years after production started. A European research and development centre is well under way on the site, Michael Caulfield, managing director, says they came because Northern Ireland's government-backed Industrial Development Board offered world-beating grants — namely up to half of the initial start-up costs of \$26 million.

Seagate is well pleased with the quality of labour — it has tapped into the local University of Ulster College — and more than happy with the city. "We will not get cold feet," says Caulfield.

But others, about to make investment decisions, clearly will. He concedes: "My con-

cern is for companies we thought were coming in our trail — many have spoken to us personally — and a number have been sitting on inward investment projects, maybe some of them ready to sign up. Those projects, I feel, are now truly and profoundly at risk — turn your TV to CNN in the States and what do you see — burning cars and a few hundred throwing petrol bombs."

A mid-July disorder, fuelled by Drumcree, has simply turned the clock back. Garvan O'Docherty employs 200 in a string of up-market pubs and restaurants. He was planning two Derry hotels; one with 40 bedrooms will be built, but the second, with 60, has been put on ice.

He says: "It's absolutely the wrong time to go ahead now."

Doubt stalks output boom

A future caught between promise and foreboding

AS CHAIRMAN of the Institute of Directors in Northern Ireland, Alan McClure represents the new breed of young entrepreneurs. They have helped push the province to the forefront in manufacturing, where output is now twice the UK average.

His Derry-based company, employing 140 in the manufacture of specialist medical packaging, recently became part of a big US concern — one of the many American corporations who see Northern Ireland as the most attractive location for serving Europe.

Mr McClure is holding his breath this weekend. "We have got to put the past behind us. I am trying to think what kind of future my three kids will have."

With contemporaries who transcend the sectarian divide, Mr McClure only wishes the zealots on both sides would consider the damage they inflict on the local economy by raking over old tribal sores.

Northern Ireland's economic success is a testament to the peace dividend. Manufacturing output over the past four years is up 15.6 per cent while export growth, at 21 per cent, is similarly twice the UK average. Unemployment at 11 per

cent — down by half since the mid-eighties — is the lowest for 14 years.

Part of the success can be attributed to the attractive package offered to new companies by the Government's Industrial Development Board.

New firms in areas of high unemployment, such as Derry and West Belfast, get grants of up to 50 per cent for new buildings and machinery.

Wages are lower than average and manufacturing companies also enjoy another distinct advantage over the mainland: they pay no rates.

With Sainsbury planning seven new stores in the province at a cost of £100 million, Tesco following suit and new hotel developments in the offing — a Hilton in Belfast, a Holiday Inn for Derry — Northern Ireland should be riding on the crest of an economic wave. "We have become one of the most dynamic economies of Europe," enthused an IDB executive.

Instead, the province is facing the future with renewed and self-inflicted uncertainty and foreboding.

Not surprisingly many senior managers and executives are shaking their heads in frustration, wondering where to turn next. More ominously, there are reports of inward investors holding back.

The tourist industry has been hit with enormous cancellations. What is shocking most people is the speed with which the years have been rolled back — the most worrying thing was the street violence that came so quickly.

O'Docherty says the climate of confidence has been eroded, but not eliminated altogether. Nevertheless, he has decided to spread his risks in future, by investing over the border in the Irish Republic a mile from the Derry boundary.

In doing so, he is merely reinforcing a view shared by government planners, that Derry has to accept geographic realities: namely that at least a third of its natural hinterland lies in the Republic. In the latest Derry area plan, just published, the Government recognises for the first time the city's "wider regional role in the North-west".

One large company has already broken the border taboo. Fruit Of The Loom, a joint venture between an American concern and an old established company in Buncrana, Donegal, symbolises cross-border industrialisation. It has five clothing factories in Donegal and a complementary spinning mill in Derry five miles away. Between them, the plants employ 2,500 — and all exports are routed through Northern Ireland.

Mr Devine, the SDLP Derry council leader, chairs a cross-

border strategy group embracing Donegal County Council, Derry City Council and two other Northern Ireland local authorities. It has a small, European Union-funded secretariat in the city.

Devine sees the day coming when the border will be irrelevant, with an industrial zone embracing Donegal and Derry. Already the cross-border group is taking a leading role in planning a free-trade area, which could mean — US Congress permitting — goods from north-west Ireland entering the United States tariff-free.

John Hume, the local SDLP MP, can take credit for bringing several thousand new jobs to Derry through his US connections. He is not entirely pessimistic about the future.

The climate of confidence has been eroded, but not eliminated

although he concedes that Drumcree "shattered a lot of people in Northern Ireland — it was a very major setback... created a lot of anger."

But like John McGinnis, president of the local Chamber of Commerce, he believes the city has the capacity to push through — if there is no trouble on the streets.

McGinnis, who runs a property company and is developing a site for a new Sainsbury superstore in Derry, says: "It will be hard to defend a situation in the weeks and months ahead of civil disorder breaking out over this weekend. It is a very fearful and frightening time."

But Paddy Docherty, veteran Republican from the Bogside and former civil rights activist, is not entirely downhearted. In the late sixties he negotiated with the British Army to defuse the continuing riots in Derry which fuelled the wider troubles. Now he runs Derry's Inner City Trust — a redevelopment-cum-job-creation scheme launched 15 years ago with £2000 from an American Irish fund and another £3,000 from a bank.

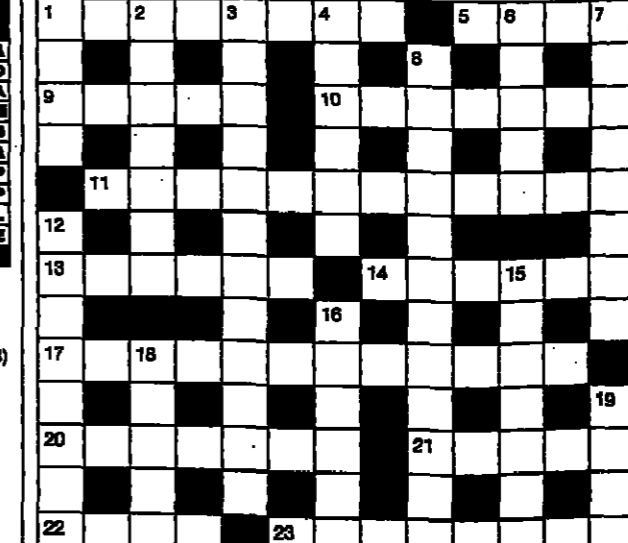
Today the Trust is Ireland's most successful urban regeneration scheme. With grants from government agencies and a variety of other sources, his organisation has spent over £15 million building houses, flats, a craft village, a new museum and an international youth hostel in numerous gaps sites in Derry.

Docherty bemoans the "terrible death wish on the part of some politicians". About time, he said, that they addressed the future instead of dwelling on the past — and, crucially, considered the awful economic consequences of further disorder. But he insists: "I am not despondent."

Quick Crossword No. 8201

Across
1 Recommend — a lawyer (6)
2 Flat-bottomed boat (4)
3 Fire-raising (5)
10 Plunder (7)
11 Shop selling exotic foods (12)
13 Girl — a famous film-star? (6)
14 Fighting instrument (6)
17 Best assistant, supporter (5-4,3)
20 Ancient county division — five sores? (7)
21 Female relative (6)
22 Sharpan (4)
23 Goodbye (French) (2,6)

Down
1 Slightly open (4)



- 2 RC service (7)
- 3 Placatory (12)
- 4 Plaid (6)
- 5 Disorder (6)
- 7 Rousing (6)
- 8 Liberty (12)
- 12 Humorous personalised verse (8)
- 15 Shem medical treatment (7)
- 16 A four-wheeled carriage (6)
- 18 Arabian sprits (5)
- 19 Expensive — address? (4)

Solution No. 8200
Across
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STUDENT LOANS COMPANY LIMITED
NOTICE OF VARIATION OF INTEREST RATE

Regulations made under the Education (Student Loans) Act 1990 (as amended) ("the Act") and the Education (Student Loans) (Northern Ireland) Order 1990 ("the Order") have prescribed that the interest applicable to Loan Agreements under the Act or Order shall, in respect of the period from 1 September 1996, be the rate of interest per day which, taking into account the addition of interest to the principal amount of the loan, will result in an APR of 2.7%. That rate of interest per day is 0.007307268% per day.

Accordingly Student Loans Company Limited HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that with effect from 1 September 1996 the RATE OF INTEREST under all such Loan Agreements is varied (in respect of the period from 1 September 1996) by being REDUCED from the present interest rate of 0.009438571% per day TO THE NEW INTEREST RATE of 0.007307268% per day (variable; APR 2.7%).

"We have got to put the past behind us. I am trying to think what kind of future my three kids will have"

Sp...
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Inside

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